Bibliography - 1938

The Story of a Winner--

Richard Wright, Negro WPA Writer, Wins Nation Fiction Contest; 600 Competed for $500 First Prize

By Alfred Davis

The nation-wide fiction contest, sponsored by Story Magazine for workers on the WPA Federal Writers Projects, has been won by Richard Wright, 29-year-old Negro newspaperman, poet and short story writer.

"Uncle Tom's Children," embracing four short novels, has received first prize among 600 contestants, being judged as a genuine contribution to American literature. Harper Brothers and Story Press will publish the novellas next month.

Richard Wright began these stories more than a year ago, while living in Chicago. His poems are already well known, having appeared frequently, since 1934, in the New Masses, Left Front, Anvil and other magazines. Several have been reprinted in anthologies of American verse.

Before going to Chicago, Richard had travelled for 10 years with his parents, who, having left the old home at Natchez, Miss., wandered here and there.

He knew no permanent home during his boyhood. His early education consisted of three or four grades of country grammar school and many months in an orphans home. At 15, he left his parents in Memphis, Tenn.

In Chicago he worked at the only job open to him: clerk first in the postoffice and later with an insurance concern; hotel waiter, bell boy, street sweeper. Some of his most popular writings hauntingly describe those years of transformation from boyhood to manhood.

Joined Chicago John Reed Club

Richard read whatever he could lay hold of, meanwhile writing poetry. Several magazines, recognizing his early talent, published his poems. In 1934 he joined the Chicago John Reed Club, becoming one of its most active members. He was its executive secretary for two years.

Through the John Reed Club young Wright came close to the working class movement. His growth and maturity as a writer, he says, began at this point. The Communist Party, he believes, gave him a deeper and broader understanding of the Negro's position in America and a fuller meaning of the struggles of the Negro people. Events in his own life, which had previously been obscured, became clear.

"I have known no life but that of the workers," he says. "In their struggles, I have found the Negro workers expressing hope, endurance, loyalty and capability of leadership. In my work I am trying to express the Negro's struggles, not as an isolated movement, but as a part of the American working class.

"I owe my literary development to the Communist Party and its influence, which has shaped my thoughts and creative growth. It gave me my first full-bodied vision of Negro life in America.

"The Communist Party will always be a guide and inspiration in my work."

In awarding the prize, the judges declared, in part: "These stories burn like a house afire. This young Negro is aflame with a sense of the indignity and the economic injustice to his race. . . . The mirror he holds up to his people certainly shows . . . authentic Negro life in this country. . . . His talent is clear and unmistakable."

RICHARD WRIGHT

Living Under Jim Crow

Richard Wright's first group of prose sketches appeared last year in the WPA Writers' anthology "American Stuff." In "Ethics of Living Jim Crow" he writes of himself as a boy receiving his first lessons in jim-crow.

In the third sketch of his "Ethics," the author writes:

"I was learning fast, but not fast enough. One day, while I was delivering packages in the suburbs, my bicycle tire was punctured. I walked along the hot, dusty road, sweating and leading my bicycle by the handle-bars.

"A car slowed at my side.

"'What's the matter, boy?' a white man called.

"I told him my bicycle was broken and I was walking back to town.

"'That's too bad,' he said.

"He stopped the car. I clutched hard at my bicycle with one hand and clung to the side of the car with the other.

"'All set?'

"'Yes, sir,' I answered. The car started.

"It was full of young white men. They were drinking. I watched the flask pass from mouth to mouth.

"'Wanna drink, boy?' one asked.

"I laughed, the wind whipping in my face. Instinctively obeying the freshly planted precepts of my mother, I said:

"'Oh, no!'

"The words were hardly out of my mouth before I felt something hard and cold between my eyes. It was an empty whisky bottle. I saw stars, and fell backwards from the speeding car into the dust of the road, my feet becoming entangled in the steel spokes of my bicycle. The white men piled out, and stood over me.

"'Nigger, ain' yuh learned no better sense'n tha' yet?' asked the man who hit me. "Ain' yuh learned t' say **sir** t' a white man yet?'"

* * *

The author speaks modestly of himself and his work. He came to New York a year ago to help launch the Negro literary quarterly "New Challenge," of which he is an editor. His first visit was to attend the First American Writers' Congress. He is a member of the League of American Writers, and is continuing to work on the Writers' Project in New York. He is now writing a novel of Negro life in the South Side of Chicago.

Richard Wright's Novel Wins $500 First Prize

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—"Uncle Tom's Children," a novel by Richard Wright, 29, Harlem author, has won first prize of $500 in the nation-wide Federal Writers Project contest sponsored by Story magazine, it was announced last week by Martha Foley, editor.

Mr. Wright's prize winning book was selected as best of the manuscripts submitted by over 600 writers, nearly all of them white. It will be published next month and will also appear in four installments in Story beginning with the March issue.

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Since then, another story, "Ethics of Living Jim Crow," appeared last fall in American Stuff, anthology of literature by those on Federal Writers Projects, and was highly praised. He is also associate editor of "New Challenge," literary quarterly appearing for the first time last fall.

Faulkner's New Book, "The Unvanquished" Will Make Southern Hearts Beat Stronger

THE UNVANQUISHED. By William Faulkner, a Random House Book. $2.50.

It is neither new nor novel to point out that modern civilization is gloppy, that mobility has dissolved in mobility. The world today pants after profit, calculatingly schemes, with minds meshed in a web of routine and feet mud-stuck in day-by-day demands.

But until the complexities the layered systems, bury man completely until then there are still left a few palets daubed with color. Men and women live and breathe who somehow hold in their own personality a flash, a reminiscence, a wink perhaps, but an ever-present hint of the glory most men miss, of the promise the individual has in dreams and so rarely fulfills in reality.

There are writers who think on these things. They write of the pallet people who sunset the day and moonglow the night for the grubs to gaze. Faulkner has a troubled nostalgia in his writing. As though he stirred uneasily in a dreaming sleep, close to waking from poignant visioning that is too like life to be unpleasant though distorted.

Perhaps it is this nostalgia that gives to "The Unvanquished" the sound of a funeral preached on the memories of the Civil War. They are dying, Dixie, dying. The old die, the young grow up—and the modern glories are tri-motored.

This is the story (and much of it has appeared in magazines before) of Bayard Sartoris and his negro companion, Ringo, who grew up together, who shot a Yank's horse with a musket steadied between them at 12, and who crucified a roving raider on a compress door at 15.

While gallant John Sartoris, Bayard's father, fought the Yankees, Bayard and Ringo stayed home in Mississippi with Granny—and sold back to the Yankees the mules the three stole from the invaders.

It was the war's result that afterward Bayard fell in love with his father's too young wife. But it was the Sartoris color—aside from the war—in Bayard that found a new way to even scores with his father's killer by a display of courage that won Bayard respect and a verbena sprig.

There is a good Yankee in this book and a bad Southerner. And some ramrod-backed and straight-laced women, a doughty old Confederate lady, and one hell-for-leather riding girl. And negroes of all sorts.

William Faulkner

But mostly there is a pause-moment of tribute to the dead goneness and a careless toast to a coming that can never be as good.

Faulkner has steadied in this book, and there are a new sympathy and humor, and few words to shock Auntie. Still there, though, are the imagery and the tense understatement that together give the effect of a street fight heard from a hotel room.

"The Unvanquished" will make no sensation, but it will be read by most Southerners. And they will feel a little proud of themselves and mentally pull a gray hat over their right eye as they clear their throat for a Rebel yell.

Maybe this will make Faulkner happy, for I think he wishes that women would ride hard and men drink deep, and that decay could stop.

JACK LOCKHART.

THE UNVANQUISHED, by William Faulkner. Random House, New York. 293 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by
KATHERINE M'CLURE ANDERSON

Several years ago there appeared in The Saturday Evening Post a series of hauntingly delightful stories by Faulkner laid in his own mythical Jefferson, Mississippi, during the Civil War days, and chronicling some of the youthful escapades of Bayard Sartoris and his Negro companion, Ringo. These stories cried aloud not to be forgotten among the perishable leaves of old magazines, and so it was with joyous satisfaction that I found them again in more permanent form and rediscovered all their charm and humor and drama. Then too, as in all the stories Faulkner has written of the Sartoris clan, his language is not encumbered with the involved, almost unreadable style of his other work, nor his morbid concern in sexual aberations and evil.

It is the particular flavor or humor Faulkner has instilled into these stories, the tall tales he has let himself unbend and tell (yet all the while allowing grim reality to lurk in the background and only occasionally swap places with romance) that is so intriguing when he writes of Ringo and Bayard and Granny.

Ringo was smarter than Bayard, but that didn't matter. All that did matter was what one had done or seen that the other had not. That was why when Granny would get out the cook-book and read recipes to the boys, Ringo would ask for Cokynut Cake. He liked to imagine that he had had it the time Bayard did, but he wasn't sure.

John Sartoris, Bayard's father, was off engaged in guerrilla warfare with a price on his head, and Granny was the head of the family. There was the time the boys shot a Yankee horse from ambush and fled into the house and under Granny's chair. She spread her skirts over them and denied with the straightest of faces that she had ever seen them, but when the soldiers left, she made them kneel and ask forgiveness for her sins, and Louvinia brought the new soap to wash out their mouths.

There was the time, too, when Granny determined to get through the Yankee lines with the family silver and her two mules, Old Hundred and Tinney, but her possessions were taken, and Granny found herself stampeded by freed slaves trying to cross the river into Yankee territory. Undaunted, Granny went to headquarters and demanded her confiscated possessions. She got them, through a ludicrous mistake, a hundred fold.

Well, Granny made a fortune off those hundred and ten mules. She and Ringo worked out a system whereby they would get mules on forged orders from the Yankees and sell them back to them in Memphis. With the money, Granny rehabilitated the plantations and small farms of her neighbors. But Granny bargained once too often, and so for months of bitter cold weather, Ringo and Bayard trailed their enemy, and returned only when they had nailed him to a door, and cut off his arm and placed it on Granny's grave that she might rest in peace.

The tone of the last two stories is different. They deal with reconstruction days, and foreshadow the disintegration of the Sartoris clan as well as many other Jefferson families which have preoccupied Faulkner's writing beginning with SARTORIS and ending with ABSOLOM, ABSOLOM. While they also tend to throw additional light on events encountered in these other books, (among them John Sartoris' murder of the Burdens dealt with in LIGHT IN AUGUST) and the relation to them is important to readers of Faulkner, they stand ably

Bibliography - 1938

Charles H. Wesley Unmasks The Confederacy

age 2-5-38 Norfolk, Va.

By Dr. CARTER G. WOODSON

Dr. Charles H. Wesley, a product of Fisk, Yale, and Harvard, has been fortunate in being left free from administrative work long enough to make a contribution to history. It is not often that a scholar makes more than one important contribution in a chosen field during his career, but Dr. Wesley, while still a young man, can claim as many as three. His Negro Labor in the United States brought out facts which had never been made available in the study of the Negro; his unpublished treatment of Emancipation and Apprenticeship in the West Indies takes high rank for both original treatment and independent research, and his Collapse of the Confederacy just given to the public will startle the world with a new point of view with respect to a long-misrepresented regime.

To write on the Confederacy, however, is like invading a forbidden field. According to many speakers and [illegible] attention, slavery was an ideal state to which the Negroes should be reduced again for their own good, and the attempt of the Confederates to prevent the destruction of that institution failed only because of the larger supplies of food, men and munitions of war pitted against the lack of these things among the most heroic leaders and faithful supporters of the Lost Cause.

Approaching the question with objectivity, Dr. Wesley has presented the facts to show that in the Confederate area there were sufficient men munitions of war, and food to continue the struggle, but both leaders and their followers were selfish, the machinery which they set up proved to be inefficient, and their cause collapsed because they no longer had the moral courage to fight. This book then, is an outstanding contribution.

In this work Dr. Wesley proceeded on the basis that nothing is true unless there is proof to that effect. Writers in this field have long taken the position that whatever they say about a matter is true. One of them recently wrote an article showing how corrupt and unworthy the Negro proved himself to be during his experience as a citizen in the South and when asked for the proof advanced as such that he, the writer, and other "Historians" had said so. The contributor became enraged when told by the editor to whom his article was submitted that a thing cannot be regarded as true merely because he and other biased authors said so.

But so it has been in writing the history of the United States. An author writes his opinions and another with a still greater slant in that direction quotes him and later still another with the two preceding until finally what a few biased writers have said about conditions obtaining in the past comes to be regarded as the truth. Especially so when some of these writers are "gentlemen" whose word is law because they can speak the truth and nothing but the truth.

This holy attitude toward southern history and the Negro in particular has done the cause of truth much harm. For example, there are few historians outside of the South who undertake to write on slavery or reconstruction, and they would avoid the Civil War if it were possible to write a history of the United States without touching that conflict. The reason for this position is that men of the South who a few years after the Civil War went North and studied "modern historiography" have applied themselves especially to problems in the South and have said the last word on slavery, the Confederacy and its aftermath. American historical scholarship has been too weak to see that these sectional writers have merely prostituted modern historiography to whitewash their ancestors and slander the unfortunate Negroes who could leave no record to be produced in their onw defense. Dr. Wesley, however, has refuted their assertions with words out of their own mouths. The facts which he has presented tell a decidedly different story.

The revelations are startling. As you read the book you find that ample supplies were horded by selfish people; the Confederacy worked out no efficient system of transportation to get them to ther armies, men and women gave themselves up to speculation and high living in a "Rich Man's War" and "Poor Man's Fight," and petty politics local and national prevented a united front to the opposing North. There followed then a decline in enthusiasm, desertions from the army, manifestations of despair, and efforts to bring the conflict to a close. Dr. Wesley shows that the Confederacy, conceived in the weakness of seeking selfishly its own ends regardless of how it thereby affected the outer world, died of the same disease among those who locally applied this principle and made united action impossible. Those who today would emulate that example in solving the so-called race problem should learn a lesson from that medieval fiasco.

In rendering this service Dr. Wesley has upset a tradition. Negroes are supposed to talk and write about the affairs which are peculiarly their own history. While the history of the Confederacy is history influenced by the Negro, white men, we are told, can handle that satisfactorily. Let the Negro writers restrict themselves to their own story.

In the graduate schools of the North, Negroes working for advanced degrees are often confronted with this attitude. Dr. Wesley had to deal with it himself. History according to his policy is to be racial propaganda rather than any one's dispassionate portrayal of the past according to the rules of objectivity. While the neglected past of the Negro must long remain a fertile and fitting field the Negroes thus concerned must treat history in its broad aspects in order to show how it has been colored by racial antipathy and how the Negro has been excluded.

For this reason Dr. Wesley has long urged upon the writer to collaborate with him in producing for teaching American history a textbook with no particular emphasis upon the Negro except to include the record of the Negro where it has been purposely omitted. This book is in preparation.

Stuart, Fla., News
February 2, 1938

YE EDITOR'S EASY CHAIR

One of the things about the New Deal which will go down in history is the Federal Writers Project on which 3000 to 6000 persons have been employed for two years compiling information about America and Americans. The main objective is the publication of a series of guide books that will picture American people and the land in which they live more completely than has ever been attempted before. Few of the books are already off the press. They tell about physical settings, cultural, economic and social life, folklore, history, archaeology, architecture, literature, and art; its racial elements, the story of the American Negro, the present and past of the American Indians.

When completed the series of guide books will include separate volumes not only for the forty-eight states and Alaska and Puerto Rico, but for many of the major cities, towns, counties, and national highway routes. More than 300 books are contemplated, comprising 20,000,000 printed words.

One of the early books in which the East Coast of Florida will be particularly interested is "U. S. No. 1," a tour book, covering Federal highway No. 1 from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Florida. It contains 140,000 words 40 fine photographs, map and index. It is clothbound and will sell for 95c. A first edition of 50,000 copies has been scheduled for publication February 14, by the publishers Modern Age Books, Inc., 155 East 44th street, New York City.

This is one of the worthwhile phases of New Deal enthusiasm because it gives permanence to a lot of information that will be highly valuable through all time and which has not been recorded in any other way.

E. A. M.

NOVEL ENTITLED "JUSTICE TO ALL"

Miss Ruth Kirby Skipper, a school teacher from Swainsboro, has written a hundred and thirty-nine-page novel covering the story of the Southern turpentine industry. The scenes are laid in Atkinson county, Georgia, and the author acquaints the reader with the heartaches and the joys of black people who live by working in the turpentine. The story deals with a Negro boy on trial for killing a white man. The book has been on sale for two weeks.

African Tales

AFRICAN GENESIS. By Leo Frobenius and Douglas C. Fox. Stackpole Sons. $3.

FROBENIUS is certainly one of the best connoisseurs of Africa, but as certainly he is one of the greatest romanticists, one of the most contested scientists in the field of anthropology. His sense for reality seems to have exhausted itself in politics. He was successively a good friend of Wilhelm II and of the left socialist minister president Kurt Eisner of Bavaria; he waited in the antechambers of the Social Democratic secretary of state Heinrich Schulz and has today a framed sentence out of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" in his studio. Anthropological science has its more or less justified doubts about the reliability of his writings. Any Africanist, therefore, will think twice before quoting him as a scientific source.

Frobenius's recent book is a selection of African tales chosen from his former German publications of the years 1921-31 and published under a pretentious and misleading title. The tales deal exclusively with the African high cultures of the Berber region, the Sudan, and southern Rhodesia. Since the African high cultures are extraordinarily complex formations which absorbed numerous influences from the Mohammedan, the European, and the Indian cultures, the title of the book seems especially audacious. The Berber tales, in particular, show a strong European-Christian influence, and some of them may provide tolerable reading for the hard-boiled anthropologist but scarcely for the general public. The inserted illustrations, originating in Frobenius's investigations of African rock paintings, have on the whole no relation to the content of the tales.

Douglas C. Fox, who wrote the introduction, begins with the sentence: "As pure stories, read for the entertainment they may bring, these tales need no introduction." I agree fully with him. Perhaps they may afford some entertainment.

JULIUS E. LIPS

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OUT OF AFRICA

By Isak Dinesen

$2.75 RANDOM HOUSE

Today's -- BOOK --

ACTION AT AQUILA, by Hervey Allen. Farrar and Rinehart, Inc., New York. 369 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by SUSAN MYRICK

Southern writers have made romance and chivalry synonomous with the South in many books. Mr. Allen has turned a neat trick and let romance ride in the person of a colonel of the Northern army, an officer who is the embodiment of gallantry, courtliness and gentle-breeding.

First book by Allen since ANTHONY ADVERSE, ACTION AT AQUILA is unlike its predecessor; for, while that best-seller ranged in scene to the far corners of the earth and was concerned with many people, this latest narrative is concentrated in time and place and is fairly economical of characters.

The magnificent Shenandoah Valley in Virginia devastated by the War Between the States is the chief scene of action, though part of the story is concerned with Philadelphia and Harrisburg and the region north of the Valley. In the few weeks of the autumn of 1864 the events are concentrated, with a few pages devoted to the old age of the chief character, long after the war is ended.

When the story opens Col. Nat Franklin, commanding the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry, has just returned from leave, his first since 1861. Astride his mount, Black Girl (whom the author regards as a character in the story) the handsome officer sits on a spur of the Blue Ridge and muses upon the events immediately preceding his leave and those of the furlough, itself. His recollections make up half the book and set the scene for the action that follows.

The action at Aquila begins the better half of the story. Colonel Franklin's men, "the eyes of Sheridan," attempt to hold off a band of lean, hungry, disorganized Confederates under the command of Major La Touche, who "may have been mad or just from Mississippi, either or both," and the hand-to-hand fighting of a small group of men brings home to the reader the horror of war far better than any amount of reading of battles that are not personalized.

Mr. Allen has undoubtedly tried to show us a close-up of war and to make us see as Remaeque did, that soldiers are human no matter what side they fight on. Into the mouth of Phil Sheridan Mr. Allen puts these words:

"Most people still look upon war as a kind of honorable duel between armies or a personal tiff between generals. Early defeats Sheridan; Sheridan defeats Early. You know, that kind of thing—sort of a game. Something for your Walter Scotts to write about. A lot of my fellow-citizens seem to think I've got a personal grudge and hate the Johnnies; that I like to burn down their homes and hear their women and children wail. . . . But I don't like war and I don't hate anybody. I want peace and it is my cruel task to bring it about by force. . . . By burning out this Valley, as I have orders to do, we can cut off Lee's supplies and save years more of war."

The romance born between Colonel Franklin and the widow of a Confederate officer is the heart interest and Mr. Allen plays on all the strings.

Sometimes during the reading of Mr. Allen's book I was amused; as when the Confederate widow, impoverished, driven from home because it was burned by the Yankees, living as best she could in hiding with her family, still manages to be so beautiful and to smell of lavendar. And sometimes during the course of the book I would wish that Mr. Allen might not have pointed the morals so plainly nor pounded the pulpit quite so much.

(ACTION AT AQUILA is published today.)

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The action at Aquila begins the better half of the story. Colonel Franklin's men, "the eyes of Sheridan," attempt to hold off a band of lean, hungry, disorganized Confederates under the command of Major La Touche, who "may have been mad or just from Mississippi, either or both," and the hand-to-hand fighting of a small group of men brings home to the reader the horror of war far better than any amount of reading of battles that are not personalized.

Mr. Allen has undoubtedly tried to show us a close-up of war and to make us see as Remaeque did, that soldiers are human no matter what side they fight on. Into the mouth of Phil Sheridan Mr. Allen puts these words:

"Most people still look upon war as a kind of honorable duel between armies or a personal tiff between generals. Early defeats Sheridan; Sheridan defeats Early. You know, that kind of thing—sort of a game. Something for your Walter Scotts to write about. A lot of my fellow-citizens seem to think I've got a personal grudge and hate the Johnnies; that I like to burn down their homes and hear their women and children wail. . . . But I don't like war and I don't hate anybody. I want peace and it is my cruel task to bring it about by force. . . . By burning out this Valley, as I have orders to do, we can cut off Lee's supplies and save years more of war."

The romance born between Colonel Franklin and the widow of a Confederate officer is the heart interest and Mr. Allen plays on all the strings.

Sometimes during the reading of Mr. Allen's book I was amused; as when the Confederate widow, impoverished, driven from home because it was burned by the Yankees, living as best she could in hiding with her family, still manages to be so beautiful and to smell of lavendar. And sometimes during the course of the book I would wish that Mr. Allen might not have pointed the morals so plainly nor pounded the pulpit quite so much.

(ACTION AT AQUILA is published today.)

Astounding! Are you easily shocked? Then don't read

JUDGE LYNCH

HIS FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

by FRANK SHAY

But if you can face facts—taken from the record—and want to know what could happen to you, white or black, North or South, then meet the JUDGE — who has no jury and holds no court!

$2.50 at all booksellers IVES WASHBURN, Inc.

Bibliography - 1938

Today's --BOOK--

NEGRO BUILDERS AND HEROES, by Benjamin Brawley. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 292 pp., $2.50.

Reviewed by EUGENE ANDERSON

Some stories in this book are intensely interesting. Human struggle and achievement in adverse circumstances appeal to readers. The Negroes more than any other race or group, have been exploited in slavery in their native land and in foreign lands. At first prisoners of war and slaves in Africa, they were sold to traffickers and brought to America to substitute for the indentured white slaves then in use by the colonists. Their plight was so distressing that prejudice gradually grew against the world institution of slavery, and in spite of fanatical mistakes from outside, the race was led out of bondage, and provided with friendships that have never reached to the poor whites, the forgotten whites.

Fifty years ago, it was believed by many that the Negroes could not receive education; and that they had been too suddenly released from bondage and thrown on their own resources. Their own leaders wanted them to be educated before they were freed; but such friends as Stevens and Stanton did not believe they could ever get education until they were free. And that idea was backed by proof. Several states had passed laws making it a crime to "teach" a Negro.

Benjamin Brawley's book convinces his readers that Negroes can be taught and that they can be heroes. Southerners do not need to read books to learn this, however, because right here in Macon and in every other community may be seen evidence of worthiness and intelligence in Negro character; and school superintendents say that where Negroes have been given proper educational advantages they make successful members of society.

The reader of NEGRO BUILDERS AND HEROES wishes more space had been given to Booker Washington and his work; and to Professor George W. Carver, the great Negro scientist; and to Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Laney and other interesting characters who pass all too quickly from the reader's eye. But the author seems to have been intent on pleasing his subjects or their descendants and admirers; and this caused him to mention some whose achievements scarcely justified a place in the hall of fame. Their mention weakened his argument, because it is so easy to look about and see many unheralded Negroes who are doing much greater and nobler work. The Negro is now making friends among those who know him best.

Benjamin Brawley is encouraging the race, and such efforts inspire them in the right direction.

Today's --BOOK--

A SOUTHERN HARVEST, Edited by Robert Penn Warren. Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston. 360 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by KATHERINE M'CLURE ANDERSON

When Robert Penn Warren, managing editor of the Southern Review, planned this anthology of short stories by Southern writers, he felt compelled, for reasons of clarity, to answer the questions: What is a Southern writer? or more fundamentally—What is the South? The South, Mr. Warren decides, is not composed of those states whose soldiers fought in Confederate gray, for Kentucky and West Virginia contribute five authors represented here. Thus history is no solution, nor is geography for Texas and Arkansas are certainly to be considered, nor sociology. Rather will the work of a Southern writer tell all that one needs to know, he says. He elucidates on his contention by citing the fact that although Conrad Aiken was born in Savannah, he is not to be classed as a Southern writer because his stories have "no readily discernible affiliations with any life which we can feel as specifically Southern."

Mr. Warren, in discussing the literary ferment (as he calls it) in the South, begun in the last twenty years, goes on to say that the reporting of the Southern scene by its writers has subordinated the purely realistic approach, producing a poetic quality to be found among the majority of authors represented in this volume.

Many of the stories included here are bits from novels, or groups of short stories published formerly by the author, others are from magazines such as Scribners, Century and Story, and four from Warren's Southern Review.

"Old Red," a slice from Caroline Gordon's fine classic of the Southern outdoors, ALECK MAURY, SPORTSMAN, is Warren's first selection. Here too, from FELICIANA, is Stark Young's poetic and beautifully told "Shadows on Terrebonne." An incident from Thomas Wolfe's OF TIME AND THE RIVER, concerning his stay at Oxford, is included, probably because it is a skillfully told short story in itself. From OLD LOUISIANA, is taken Lyle Saxon's engaging portrait of the mad but "Gay Daingerfields."

John Peale Bishop is represented by a delightful story of two spinsters, and the colored "Bones," who came to stay in "If Only." "Record at Oak Hill" is an excellent example of Elizabeth Madox Robert's delicate and lyrical style, as well as her ability to tell a story before one realizes it has been told.

The sense of pleasure in having read many of these stories lingers on, while some repel by their ugliness, but attract, too, by their power and truth. Foremost among the latter is Erskine Caldwell's terrible indictment of unjust landlordism in "Kneel to the Rising Run" and Elma Godchaux's "The Horn That Called Bambine," Paul Green's "A Tempered Fellow" and Julia Peterkin's "A Proudful Fellow," which are very similar in plot and title, except that one is the personal tragedy of a white tenant farmer and one a black (which for contrast is probably why they were included), and Andrew Lytle's well told story of land possession in "Jericho, Jericho, Jericho."

Katherine Ann Porter's story of a mother's love for her idiot son "He" is here from FLOWERING JUDAS. As is Allen Tate's "The Immortal Woman," William Faulkner's "That Evening Sun," Jesse Stuart's powerfully realistic "Woman in the House" and Roark Bradford's tender and appealing tale of Mammy Clo, who witnessed her own funeral, called "Cold Death."

Delightfully humorous is Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's story "Benny and the Bird-Dogs," and Howell Vine's "The Ginsing Gatherers."

S. S. Field, Edward Anderson, Beulah Roberts Childers, and E. P. O'Donnell are also represented with stories that however fail to stand out in this reviewer's memory as do the others.

This is certainly "Representative fiction from the distinguished writers of the New South," which is what Editor Warren intended that it should be.

Today's --BOOK--

THE WASTED LAND, by Gerald W. Johnson. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 110 pp. $1.50.

Reviewed by D. F. BRUCE

THE WASTED LAND is essentially a commentary on SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES written by Howard W. Odum. Nearly all facts were taken from SOUTHERN REGIONS. The opinions of the author did not express or necessarily agree with Dr. Odum.

Mr. Johnson begins his sketch, advancing a question and challenge—can the South, given time and immunity from calamity from without, regain the position it held between 1776 and 1860?

The author grants the region has exhibited splendid energy and vitality, especially since the turn of the century. The fact remains that there are even now tremendous forces of destruction at work in the South. One encouraging factor in the life of the modern South is the new disposition to probe ruthlessly for truth about herself.

Mr. Johnson's deepest impression is the titanic waste of men, money, land, time and opportunity. The facts (showing ninety-seven million acres of land being eroded, three and one-half million people having left the South) indicate relatively small intelligence in the use of its physical and spiritual wealth.

Lack of technical skill which can be supplied, and applying intelligent directions to available energy and resources, Mr. Johnson thinks should swiftly return the region to a level of civilization higher than any occupied.

The author relates that to date our economic, social and political policies have never developed any adequate means of dealing with problems in the large, and that there is a lack of resourcefulness and ingenuity. A terrific pressure has driven the Southeast into an agricultural policy that, instead of making it the richest, has reduced it to the poorest of the six regions.

The fact that the Southeast is composed of a younger people than any other section, coupled with racial origin and cultured background, is hardly as powerful a factor in formulating attitudes as the fact that the South is a poor man with many children. People leave the Southeast in hordes because the region is so predominately agrarian that it affords no adequate outlet for energies of its people who are artisans, not husbandmen.

Industries for raw materials have not reached the maximum desirable for the orderly and systematic development of the region's cultural and economic potentialities.

Mr. Johnson thinks agriculture and education have priority for improvement to strengthen the bases of economy and cultural levels, requiring capital, technical skill and leaders, which are deficiencies of the Southeast.

In Mr. Johnson's study, he suggests a central directing authority for the Southeast, concentrating the efforts and energy of the region, following with skill, strategy and boldness, planned program of reconstruction of agriculture that should result in increased wealth of staggering proportions.

Waste is our enemy—waste of land, people, time, energy. These and no outside foe is throttling the Southeast. The task is not an easy one, but it can be done. Every Southerner should read THE WASTED LAND and accept its challenge to help stop soil and human erosion in the Southeast.

ATLANTAN IS AUTHOR OF BOOKS

Mrs. Helen Whiting Has Written Several Juvenile Texts

ILLUSTRATIONS

A set of juvenile books is being published on Negro culture for children of primary grades through the Associated Publishers, Washington, D. C., by Helen A. Whiting, State Department, Atlanta, Georgia.

Book I of the set consists of Negro Folk Tales for children and primary grades.

Book II treats of "Negro Art, Music, Rhyme and Dance" for children of primary grades.

Much of the content, in more advanced form, was prepared and used in the middle and upper grades in the Charlotte, North Carolina, Public School system, where Mrs. Whiting was supervisor. She felt that the primary grades were due similar information in simpler form; and with the encouragement of both white and colored friends Mrs. Whiting decided to write this set of books, each of which is directly in line with the recommendation of the National Conference on Fundamental Problems of Negro Education which reads:

Special curricular adaptations to problems of a bi-racial society should be made in the schools of both races. This recommendation should imply revision of courses of studies and text books.

There is repetition without monotony. The vocabulary is confined to words on the primary grade level. There seems to be sufficient justification for the use of a few difficult words, without which the story would lack authenticity: The author relies on the children's interests which carry them beyond grade restrictions while reading for pleasure and information.

As one examines this material, he readily sees their usefulness to parents and teachers of such subjects as sociology, psychology and the like.

The artist, Miss Lois Jones of Howard University, has done admirable work in enhancing both books with accurate and attractive illustrations of the stories.

The author, well-known in the field of creative educational research, is especially trained for this work, and needs no introduction to the public. She has made a specialty of curriculum construction, including social studies under Dr. Harold Rugg and other educators. Mrs. Whiting has specialized in children's literature continuously, and studies under Dr. Mabel Robinson, professor of creative writing for children at Columbia University, who encouraged her talent in this direction. She has also made an extensive study of Negro History over a long period of years, several of which were spent in the Division of Negro History and Literature of the 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library.

Mrs. Whiting is making an effort to have the books produced at low cost; in order that they may be available to children in all schools, both city and rural.

She has been invited to contribute articles to the leading professional journals of the country. A most worth while contribution by the author is her creative experimentation embodying original ideas from her writings with children. "Progressive Education" published an account of one of her adventures with children in a recent edition.

The following is an account of her work published by the Harmon Foundation in a booklet entitled "Negro Artists," page 31:

"Through the vital and stimulating work of the art section of the Oglethorpe Laboratory School of Atlanta University led by Mrs. Helen A. Whiting, the children of Atlanta have been building up during the past few years a solid knowledge and appreciation of Negro art. Beginning with the lowest grades of the elementary school, interest is kindled through the medium of projects in art which bring out individual talent, pamphlets specially prepared for reading and study by younger groups, special racial programs in which the discussion of art plays a large part, and exhibitions of work by the children themselves."

Because of her extraordinary talents and varied educational qualifications, Mrs. Whiting has been called upon to act as chairman of several National Committees for the study of problems of Negro Education, and her several recommendations for educational innovations have been accepted.

She is now serving as assistant director of Negro education with the State Department of Education Atlanta Georgia, and is co-editor of "The Negro History Bulletins." She is also a member of the board of consultants of the new professional magazine, "National Educational Outlook among Negroes." In addition to this, Mrs. Whiting has edited several books for teachers.

NEW BOOK WRITTEN BY GEORGIA WOMAN

SAVANNAH, Feb. 17.—A new novel by another young woman author of Georgia—this time Miss Ruth Kirby Skipper, Stilson school teacher—is off the presses and has been received in Savannah.

"Justice To All," the book, concerns a romantic section of south Georgia, and centers around the joys and sorrows of negro "hands" who spend their lives dipping gum, chipping trees and making barrels.

Miss Skipper has taught school in Atkinson county, and lived there many years with her people.

Today's -- BOOK --

TUESDAY NEVER COMES, by Lida Larrimore
The Macrae-Smith Co., 341 pp. $2.00.

Reviewed by JOSEPHINE B. ABNEY

Mrs. Lida Larrimore Turner's latest novel, TUESDAY NEVER COMES, is a pleasant Southern romance which has won a place among the ten best sellers of the month.

On a June morning, Julia Perry was aroused to the sound of a lawn mower accompanied by a Negro voice raised in spirited song. She burrowed her head into the pillow reluctant to be fully awakened. This thought might well be taken for the theme of the story, for agreeable, twenty-two-year-old Julia, in her sheltered Virginia home, was reluctant to awaken to the harsh realities of life. She lived with the philosophy that "sugar catches more flies than vinegar." Her governing principle was consideration for others, and she was possessed with an instinctive quality for making almost any situation into a pleasant one. Julia's charming insincerity was always getting her into social predicaments, one of which was her long-standing engagement to Jay Summerfield, a childhood companion.

Caroline, two years younger, but many years wiser than her sister, had two passions, one for dogs, and an unrequited love for the same Jay.

When Scott Mitchell, an attorney whom Julia had met on a visit to her aunt in Washington appears on the quiet small-town scene, it would seem that a happy ending was inevitable in the second chapter. Scott makes a most favorable impression upon Julia's dignified mother, and upon her somewhat shiftless but thoroughly lovable father. Caroline, whom Julia adored, shared the impression. Soon Julia's intention of adding another scalp to her collection, deepened into an abiding love.

The plot deepens when Julia renounces Jay for Scott. She whose life had been made up of little white lies to make other people happy, for once told the simple unadulterated truth, that she loved Scott and was going to marry him. So enters chaos.

There are several strong emotional situations in the book. The mother "Who sat unnaturally straight," had for the father a fierce protective love which admitted no imperfections. This caused a strain in the family, which all sensed but none admitted.

Between the father and Caroline there was an unmistakable admiration for each other's straight-forwardness, as well as a real affection.

One of the most lovable, and perhaps strongest characters is Dusty Price, who works with Caroline and her father in the newspaper office In his good-humored, unadorned way he loves "Ca line" deeply.

Besides the love of Julia and Scott, the strongest emotional situation is between the sisters They had invented a distress signal when children, which they had always used when either was in need of the other's assistance. This signal was in danger, however, of forever going unheeded by Caroline during the estrangement brought on by Julia's renunciation of Jay, and the ensuing complications. Finally Caroline came to recognize in Julia's distress signal the truth "That next to Scott I love you more than anyone else in the world, "Cal" darling, so you can open the door between our rooms."

TUESDAY NEVER COMES is a pleasant unsophisticated picture, drawn in soft but not too pale colors, a picture I feel all can enjoy.

JUDGE LYNCH: His First Hundred Years, by Frank Shay (Washburn, $2.50). A dispassionate and useful record of the atrocities committed during the one hundred years of lynching, plus a brief account of its origin and a survey of the inadequate legislation that at present exist to combat it.

The Marginal Man: A Study in Personality and Culture Conflict, by Everett V. Stonequist. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 246 pages, $1.60.

"MARGINAL MAN" is a new term for a very old phenomenon. By it Professor Stonequist means the man or woman who has been transplanted (willingly or by compulsion) from a "native" country or culture to one requiring prolonged efforts at adjustment. What happens to such migrants in various parts of the world and under different governments is the subject of a book which, despite its purely descriptive character and its dependence upon the subjective "document" (memoirs of Jews, Negroes, "colonials," etc.), should be provocative of much fruitful discussion. The author, an American sociologist, is not deceived by the current shibboleths of "race"; he strongly emphasizes the social factor in the impact of one people upon another, and in his detailed analysis of the "hybrid" in its racial and cultural forms he develops a considerable body of hitherto unexplored material bearing on this vital topic.

H. W.

Bibliography - 1938

She Is Number One U. S. Servant

Juanita Harrison, born in Mississippi with no public schooling after she was 10 years old, became a domestic servant. There was nothing else to do.

Juanita Harrison

In 1927, at the age of 36, she decided to work her way around the world.

It took her eight years to do it, but she worked in every country in Europe and most of Asia and North Africa before winding up in Hawaii.

She became a native in the countries she visited, learned Spanish and French, and wrote a diary of her travels in not very good English.

But the way she described her travels caused the Atlantic Monthly to publish it and McMillan to put it in book form.

It's the story of a servant girl who was born in Mississippi but demonstrated the fact that she didn't have to stay there.

In fact, the main significance of Miss Harrison's book is that a first class colored servant girl can make her living anywhere in the world.

AUTHOR

Lieut. George W. Lee, native Mississippian and manager of a large Memphis, Tenn., insurance company, has received the news that two of his books have such widespread demand in European countries that they will be translated in several foreign languages. The books are "Beale Street" and "River George," depicting life in Memphis and the delta region. Two white women will translate the volumes.

Okolona, Miss. Messenger
March 10, 1938

Local Negro Writes Interesting Volume

Pushing Forward, By W. Milam Davis; Book Privately Printed

It is rather disconcerting to discover unsuspected qualities in someone you have known a number of years. This was my experience in reading "Pushing Forward" by W. Milan Davis, dean of Okolona Industral School. It is a clear, concise, moving portrayal of a college. It lacks little of being an epic, the slow, yet sudden rise of a race. The book lacks the pedantry, the polysyllabic ostentation, the superficial boosting and ballyhoo one expects to find in a college history. Rather it is a cool, careful, objective study of an institution. A "Forward" by Bishop Wm. Mercer Green gives a just commendation of the book.

The careers of Alcorn graduates given in the volume are even better than the college story itself. The educational achievement of President Rowan, Principal Perkins, and Principal Moseley are stirring chronicles. The story of Principal Strange, of the Okolona Industrial School, is perhaps the best written of all the biographies in the volume. The great part he has played in negro education is well disclosed. The story of President Coleman shows the negro's sacrifice to make education available to his race. Professor P. S. Bowles, agricultural teacher at Alcorn, comes in as the most realistic of colored educators. He boldly condemned the educational philosophy that sought to prepare colored students for positions beyond any probable attainment, and led in the movement to make negro education something of value for life in the South and not an impractical imitation of impossible ideals.

The book is very well printed and bound, a delight to the eye. The author has modestly omitted himself, yet one is conscious of a thoughtful accuracy and scholarship pervading the book. One wonders how many junior college professors could have done as well. It is reassuring for the race, and for the college which has his services.

—CHARLES G. HAMILTON

Book Popular

ATTY. FITZHUGH L. STYLES

Member of the Philadelphia bar, whose book, "Negroes and the Law," is proving popular not only in the legal profession, but with all students of Negro life. The work is factual, and replete with biographies of 21 lawyers. Mr. Styles, only 37, is a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and a graduate of college and law at Howard. The late renowned editor, T. Thomas Fortune, was his uncle. The book is distributed by the Langston Sales Company, 2200 West Columbia avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. Hon. E. Washington Rhodes, editor of the Philadelphia Tribune and former president of the National Bar Association, wrote the foreword, and Charles H. Houston of the N. A. A. C. P. and R. L. Vann contributed special chapters.

Prize Book Published

RICHARD WRIGHT

Twenty-nine year old Mississippi-born Harlemite, whose volume of four novels, "Uncle Tom's Children," has just been published by Harper Brothers, New York. Mr. Wright recently won a $500 prize for the best novella nation-wide contest by Story magazine, in which the novels will also appear. Contest judges lavishly praised the young author for his brilliant work.

Wins Prize

RICHARD WRIGHT

Twenty-nine-year-old Mississippi-born Harlemite, whose volume of four novellas, "Uncle Tom's Children," has just been published by Harper Brothers, New York. Mr Wright recently won a $500 prize for the book in a nation-wide contest conducted by Story magazine in which the novellas will also appear. Contest judges lavishly praised the young author for his brilliant work.—ANP Photo.

Lynching Up East Basis of New Novel

HOW SLEEPS THE BEAST, by Don Tracy. Mill. $2.

Gripping, stark, and terrifying, this story moves rapidly along the course of a lynching on the Eastern shore of Maryland. A simple young negro commits a heinous crime under the influence of liquor urged upon him by a greedy merchant. The mob riots, the sheriff acquiesces, the negro is tortured and killed. It is a Roman holiday in the village of fishermen and farmers.

Tracy is a competent objective reporter of action and dialogue and a marvelously dramatic story teller. His book is not mere anti-lynching propaganda. It is a study of the lusts that drive men singly and in mass to foul deeds. The beast, he believes, sleeps not too soundly in civilized man.

JENNIE B. GARDNER.

Adventure Book Is Released By Women

ATLANTA, Ga.—The work of Mrs. Blauriene S. Collins and Miss Fay M. Hershaw, a Baltimore school teacher, a new adventure book, "Around the World with Hershaw and Collins," has just been released by the Meadow Publishing Company.

The book, containing 151 pages and 75 pictures, tells of the fascinating experiences of two colored women. Mrs. Collins, a graduate of Atlanta and Chicago Universities, is a member of a Chicago newspaper editorial staff.

Today's -- BOOK --

JUDGE LYNCH, His First Hundred Years, by Frank Shay. Ives Washburn, Inc., New York 288 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by CHARLES J. BAYNE

The publication of this book coincided, in part with the most determined effort ever made in congress to pass an anti-lynching bill and might very well have served as source material for those who advocated the measure. The anti-lynching bill has been temporarily sidetracked, but the book will always have value as throwing new light on one of the great evils in our national life.

The average person probably supposes that lynching has always meant the figure of a Negro hanging to a limb, the victim of mob vengeance. Mr. Shay goes back to one Col. Charles Lynch of Virginia to find the origin of the word lynching, and yet it was not until 40 years after the death of the Virginia soldier who had fought in the War of the Revolution that his name was given to the practice of summary punishment.

So, too, as the author points out, it was a long way from the mild, repressive measures of Colonel Lynch to the legendary figure bearing his name whose known victims now number more than five thousand.

The term lynching, as it is employed for the purposes of this book, does not include various forms of death by mob violence, but practically every state in the Union has this blight on its name and fame although there is no denying that it has been more prevalent in the South. A table of figures embodied in the book shows clearly that the crime is distinctly on the wane and may soon disappear. Last year there were only eight such crimes in the entire country, with 12 the year before.

The states which have had the worst record in the matter of lynchings in the past are taken up, one at a time, and the horrible examples given in some detail. I do not know where Mr. Shay gets the idea that Georgia is the buzzard state, but at all events he shows that since 1882 there have been 570 lynchings in Georgia. The book gives the case history of Sam Hose, whose lynching in April, 1899, brought criticism, as old inhabitants will remember, on Governor Allan Candler for his failure to give the Negro protection.

On the whole, the book is a gruesome record and is not written exactly with judicial calm but it is a repository of facts bearing on the subject and is well worth reading, pondering and keeping at hand for reference.

The Sharecropper

LAND WITHOUT MOSES. By Charles Curtis Munz. 370 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. $2.50.

MOST readers are familiar by this time with the plight of the sharecroppers in the Deep South, and with the peculiar economic system which keeps all but the most enterprising in a condition of servitude—a servitude which makes the lot of the Negro slave seem by comparison comfortable, and free from care. The slave represented a capital investment and it took money to replace him. Manifestly the sharecropper belongs to nobody. He is never free during his useful years from debt to his landlord. When he dies of overwork, succumbs to pellagra, or lands in jail, there are always more sharecroppers where he came from.

For the average tenant farmer it is a vicious circle, an all but unbeatable system. That is why it makes such admirable literary material. The story of almost any sharecropper has elements of balance, progression and inexorability which are akin to those of classic tragedy. One follows it anxiously, as one follows a tragedy, hoping that the hero can escape his inevitable fate, yet knowing as surely as if it were the story of Oedipus that he will not. In "Land Without Moses" there is even, in the character of Kirby Moten, a touch of that nobility which used to be considered essential in figures of tragedy.

For Tamp Moten, Kirby's father, there is already little hope when the story opens. He will never get across the river to Habishaw County. Every good year when his debt at the commissary is reduced, Tamp believes that next year he can realize this bright dream of his life. He has talked about Habishaw until young Kirby may be forgiven for confusing it with the land of Canaan. There are no big plantations there, because the soil is worthless. A man may find a stumpy hillside of his own, put in a fruit tree or two and a struggling patch of corn, and starve as he pleases. Every bad year Tamp returns from settlement day deeper in debt than ever, and beats his mule half to death in a fury of inarticulate frustration.

It looks for a while as if Kirby may reach the promised land. He has learned to write his name, to add a column of figures. Once with dreadful courage, he advances upon Mr. Longnecker and asks to see the books. He puts his name on a letter to President Roosevelt that the older men are afraid to be first to sign. It is hardly Kirby's fault that he adds to the odds against himself by falling in love, or that his thirst for knowledge never leads him to the dimmest conception of his legal rights. It is hardly Mr Longnecker's fault, either.

The plantation owner is brutal and unscrupulous, but he has troubles of his own. Mr. Munz is aware that the julep-drinking aristocrats of fiction are not numbered today among the successful cotton growers. This is the conspicuous virtue of his novel—its balance and clarity. The incidents in "Land Without Moses" may be almost unbearably cruel, but they are allowed to speak for themselves. Mr Munz writes in a cool and unornamented prose which interposes the least possible barrier between his reader and the reality he wishes to convey. This in spite of some dramatic situations which would have betrayed most young novelists into the sin of overwriting.

"Land Without Moses" is not, perhaps, the best of all sharecropper novels. In the past five years there have been some very good ones. For sincerity of purpose, however, it is equal to any, and I can think of none whose emotional effect is more profound.

MARGARET WALLACE

PLANTATION MURDER, by Christine Noble Govan. Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston 230 pp. $2.00.

Reviewed by ROY B. RHODENHISER, JR.

In her latest story, PLANTATION MURDER, Mrs. Govan presents a new locale for mystery stories, and that is a stately old Southern mansion, a summer resort, and a swamp, all located near Ripley, South Carolina. The reader will find the first few chapters of Mrs. Govan's latest opus uninteresting and dull, but the later chapters, filled with mystery and murder, will delight, please and baffle even the most avid mystery-story fans.

On the night of a gala costume ball held at the Beau Terra plantation mansion, home of Lowell Whitehead, Yankee owner of the South Carolina plantation, a murder is committed. The list of suspects was limited to eight (six of them late vacationists on nearby Fiddler's Island), but is later narrowed down to seven and then six by subsequent murders.

Each murder was committed in a different manner, the first person to die was shot, the second's throat was slashed, and the third was tortured to death. Drummond, the coroner, was convinced that the murders were the act of a mad man, and so he had the remaining suspects carefully guarded, but the murderer was not to be denied and the very man that Drummond, himself, was guarding was killed.

The story ends when the murderer is tracked down in the nearby swamps. Drummond, who had been knocked out the night before, was so startled when he discovered the murderer that he became delirious and had to be confined to his bed, and the identity of the real criminal will prove almost as startling to the reader.

The superstition and dire predictions of the Gullah Negroes of that section are woven into the story. Mrs. Goven, like most writers, is unable to capture in written words a true Southern atmosphere, nor is she able to successfully transcribe the inimitable soft speech of the natives of Dixie.

Bibliography - 1938

Mrs. Millin's Tale of a Crusader

Times Book Review 5-29-38 New York, N.Y.

Her New South African Novel Tells of a Dreamer's Efforts to Solve the Country's Racial Problem

WHAT HATH A MAN? By Sarah Gertrude Millin. 316 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. $2.50.

By PERCY HUTCHISON

IT is written in the Book of Ecclesiastes: "For what hath a man of all his labor * * * wherein he laboreth under the sun?" And it is this question which Sarah Gertrude Millin attempts to answer in this profound and subtly woven novel of England and Africa. Perhaps the reader will feel in the end that the conclusion she arrived at is contained also in Ecclesiastes: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," although she does not quote the line. Yet if this be her answer her novel is none the less noble in spite of it. Or perhaps because of it? Mrs. Millin, who was the author of the African novel "God's Stepchildren," has also done a biography of Cecil Rhodes. And "What Hath a Man?" might well be termed the fictive biography of one who while fired by Rhodes's vision of empire, nevertheless follows a dream far more exalted. Henry Ormandy's "crusade" for an Africa where whites and blacks would jointly rule, living in peace and friendliness, not killing one another in their lust for power was a futile one. But is not a crushing materialism equally futile in the end? We seem to hear Mrs. Millin say that it is.

The tale, which is an absorbing one, apart from any ulterior significance, begins in London. The father of Henry, a wealthy and ruthless stockbroker, cannot understand the sensitive child he has begotten. As the boy grows older he can understand him still less. Eton and Oxford, of course, a cultural canter. And then, the brokerage business, with wealth piled on wealth; perhaps a marriage into the aristocracy and a creditable and solid English life. One recognizes the picture. It has been presented scores of times. The boy, and long before he enters Oxford, is, however, in rebellion against it all. His desire is to be an artist; yet he has the discernment to perceive that his talents are not sufficient to make him an authentic artist, and he abandons the idea, although never relinquishing his ideals of beauty.

Henry's parents are what once were called Dissenters. And the lack of color, the lack of warmth in the services he has been compelled to attend as a boy throws him over to Catholicism. Keeping him true all his life to the faith he has adopted, the author is nevertheless at pains to make it clear that Ormandy was more lured by the mysticism of Catholicism than by its dialectic. The difference, for the novel, is important, for herein is the key to Henry's career. Spurning his father's wealth, inspired by the thought of the ancient Crusaders, he secured an appointment in Africa. In other words, he sees his life as a mission, a latter-day crusade.

The dramatic highlight of the narrative comes when Mrs. Millin has Henry encounter Rhodes. It is just after the massacre of the Matabele before the English Maxims. But would Ormandy have had the handful of whites exterminated by the millions of blacks? "If I hadn't taken this bit of Africa, somebody from some other nation would have," says Rhodes in effect. Henry has to acknowledge the practical truth here. But he has won Rhodes's sympathy for the Matabele survivors, and the conqueror himself, moved by the disinterested high-mindedness of Ormandy, goes to offer them succor and friendship.

But Mrs. Millin, we take it, is less concerned with drama than she is with life, specifically with life's overtones. Born and reared in Africa, she knows both the native and his white overlord. But she is not primarily involved either in the attrition of races or in the African scene. She looks upon this country in which her lot has been cast as the crucible in which are tested the souls of mankind. Africa, in this novel, is for her the wine press of the Lord, in which every Cecil Rhodes and Henry Ormandy is a ripened grape to be fermented at last into the full-fruited wine. Her interest is in watching man play out his destiny, and wherever she stations her characters, that is her stage. "What Hath a Man?" is, therefore, universal.

Are all souls as tortured as Henry Ormandy? One would hope not. Happy, indeed, one may be tempted to say, reading this novel, a Cecil Rhodes, big or little, or a man like Henry's stockbroker father. Practical, direct, smashing their way onward to a single objective, they brush aside doubts and fears as one brushes away cobwebs.

The ending of the novel I shall not touch upon. But, as I have sought to make evident, the power of this unusual novel is not in the story told. "What Hath a Man?" is searching, grave, sincere. Mrs. Millin is not much concerned as to how the world is going; but she is greatly concerned over the way men may go. She neither praises nor condemns. Nor does she prognosticate. Hers is the laboratory method.

Sarah Gertrude Millin.

In the Old South

A GENTLEMAN OF THE OLD NATCHEZ REGION: Benjamin L. C. Wailes. By Charles S. Sydnor. 337 pp. Duke University Press, Durham, N. C. $3

By HENRY STEELE COMMAGER

PERHAPS nowhere on the American frontier was the transit of civilization more rapid than in the Natchez region of Southwestern Mississippi. It was in 1798 that the United States secured both title to and possession of the region, and in that year surveyors, fixing an international boundary, carved a sixty-foot clearing through primeval forest from the Mississippi River to Georgia; ten years later it was difficult to locate the clearing, so rapidly had the wilderness come back. Yet when Ingraham visited the region in the Eighteen Thirties he found a society as complex as that of the seaboard South, and few will challenge the faithfulness of Stark Young's description of the Natchez country in "So Red the Rose." Within half a century the civilization of this area had reached maturity and almost decadence.

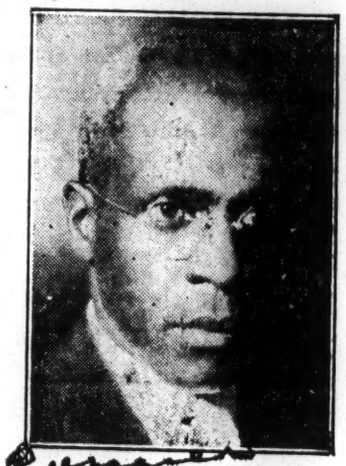
In the course of his researches into Mississippi slavery Professor Sydnor happened upon the voluminous journals of Benjamin Wailes, and conceived the happy idea of reconstructing the social history of the old Natchez region with this authentic material. Wailes was not a prominent statesman or a distinguished man of letters or even one of the great planters; he was simply a well-to-do average upper-class slaveholder and planter with catholic interests, an alert mind, and an indefatigable pen. His picture of society was not, therefore, distorted by political considerations or literary ambitions, or even by personal eccentricities. But the range of Wailes's activities and the breadth of his interests make him a faithful and a fascinating guide.

His early training was as a surveyor, and he never really abandoned that profession: in his old age he undertook an elaborate survey of the agriculture and geology of Mississippi, which was a Doomsday Book for the State. He was no less interested in the history of his Commonwealth, founded the Mississippi Historical Society—which lasted but a year—and collected historical manuscripts and records which he gave generously to other students. He was long a trustee of Jefferson College, and his efforts to maintain and improve that faltering institution illuminate the history of many frontier colleges. He was widely connected, knew every one who was any one, befriended young Audubon, the historian Monette, the "Yankee" Ingraham, the politician Claiborne. But he was, primarily, a planter, his interests in his slaves, cotton and land.

And it is as a picture of plantation life that Mr. Sydnor's book is chiefly valuable. Here is an unpretentious record of slave economy; of buying and selling, plantation management, soil conservation, food supplies and, above all, the overseer problem. This last receives particular attention, and nowhere in our literature is the problem of the overseer more realistically dramatized. Most of the planters in the Natchez region prospered famously, and the wealth of some was estimated at $10,000,000, but Wailes does not appear to have managed very well, and his books show losses as well as profits. Here is a record, too, of a pleasant social life—the round of visiting, traveling, picnics, churchgoing and family routine.

That routine was disturbed by the war but not shattered. The ultimate impact of the war upon Wailes and his society is not here revealed, for Wailes died in 1862, but it is interesting to note that his Unionist sympathies did not forfeit for him the respect or affection of his neighbors.

PUBLISHER



L. C. FRANKLIN MILLER, former editor and publisher of Miller's Business Directory of Philadelphia, "is securing material to publish a 'Who's Who in the A. M. E. Church for 1940." Rev. Miller stopped at The Courier office Saturday while enroute to his home in Boston, Mass.

College Shows Negro New Way Of Living

PUSHING FORWARD. By W. Mulan Davis. Okolona Industrial School, Okolona, Miss.

The Episcopal Bishop of Mississippi, the Rt. Rev. Wm. Mercer Green, in his foreword to this little book about Alcorn A. and M. College, Alcorn, Miss., writes: "The progress of the negro in the field of education has been astounding. More than 90 per cent illiterate in 1866 and 70 per cent in 1880, in 1930 negro illiteracy had dropped to 16.3 per cent." The bishop's contention is that since the wellbeing and happiness of all Southerners is intimately wrapped up in the progress of the negro, such stories as that under our hand, written by Dean Davis of Okolona Industrial School, should be of interest.

Before the Civil War there was an Oakland College under Presbyterian auspices at Alcorn, Mississippi, built by the labor of slaves. The war caused the school to close; after the war this school for white boys became a school for negro boys. Dean Davis tells the story of the struggle of this institution through many difficulties and discouragements, even disasters, until today it is a thriving institution of higher learning the only one for negroes in Mississippi supported by the state. He tells it objectively and in a straightforward manner. At the end he gives sketches of the lives of some of the important graduates of Alcorn as though to say, "By their fruits shall ye know them."

Does it pay to give the negro higher education? Come and see what our graduates are doing in the great world of education, medicine, commerce, law, dentistry. When viewed from the fact that less than three quarters of a century ago the negro was an illiterate slave the record is moving and impressive indeed.

JOHN CLARENCE PETRIE

Mrs. Addie W. Hunton Writes Book On Life Of Her Husband, Founder Of Y.M.C.A. Movement Among Race

The struggles and sacrifices of a Negro crusader to better the conditions of his race are revealed in the biography of William Alphaeus Hunton, just written by his wife, Mrs. Addie W. Hunton, and published by Association Press. The biography is being released in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the establishing of Colored Y. M. C. A. work, of which Mr. Hunton was the founder. The movement, led by the young crusader for over 25 years, has since spread to 76 cities and 140 schools and colleges in America.

William Hunton was called to take up the secretaryship of the first colored Y. M. C. A. in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1888. He displayed such talent and leadership in launching this Association, that Richard C. Morse, general secretary of the International Committe drew him two years later to New York to head up work for colored men and boys throughout the United States.

The young secretary was a man of vision, with ideals backed up by sound principles and unusual ability. He saw in the Y. M. C. A., with its educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities, possibilities by which the under-privileged colored boy and young man might enjoy the advantages of his white brother. With striking patience and perseverance against racial antagonisms, he founded Y. M. C. A.'s for colored men and boys in the major cities of the North and South.

During Mr. Hunton's twenty-five years of leadership in the cause of youth of his race, he won many friends to the Association's work for colored men. Among the most outstanding of these was Julius Rosenwald, who gave $25,000 to any city raising $75,000 for a suitable "Y" for work among colored men and boys. To date more than 27 cities have taken advantage of Mr. Rosenwald's philanthropy.

The story of William Hunton's crusade for better health and recreational conditions for colored youth is feelingly told by his wife in "William Alphaeus Hunton, A Pioneer Prophet of Young Men." In a foreword, Dr. John R. Mott, president of the World's Alliance Y. M. C. A., says: "He influenced the youth of the Negro race, both South and North, planting societies in all important colleges and in the large cities of the United States; his ideals and principles commanded the acceptance and support of men of influence of the white race. His life is a message of hope, encouragement and guidance for coming generations of the colored race of America and Africa."

Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter, a daughter and member of the staff of District Attorney, Thomas E. Dewey, was awarded and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Smith College. The son, Dr. William A. Hunton, jr., is a Professor of English at Howard University. He received his Ph.D. from New York University last spring.

Bibliography - 1938

BOOK REVIEW

SOJOURNER TRUTH, God's Faithful Pilgrim. A Book by Arthur Huff Fauset, Chapel Hill, 1938. $3.00 (Reviewed by Ethel R. Harris for ANP.)

The reader is impressed with the control of religious faith and belief in mysticism upon the life of the slave Isabella, who later called herself Sojourner Truth. When life seemed impossible with the Nealys, she stole to her father that he might pray for another master for her. Very soon Martin Schryer offered $5 more than the price Neely had paid. Then she sold for three times her original cost to John Dumont, who became her idol. It was behind branches near a small stream on this estate that she prayed in seclusion and "cultivated the habit of exchanging promises with God." Following her escape from Dumont to the Van Wagener home and the unusual reception there, she announced that Dumont would come for her. Curiously enough, though he refused to take her, Dumont visited the Van Wagener home that day.

Peter was only five when his mother left him. With little more than a year for slavery to continue in New York State, she believed that all was safe because of her confidence in Dumont and the limitations of the law to sell across the state lines. Peter was sold, however, and never before had those around heard so much clamor over the sale of a child. Isabella asked God to assist her—a stranger apporached and sent her to Quaker. Through surprising deviations of custom and law, she was given her son.

Almost concurrently, she became a member of church and the house servant of Elijah Pierson, who instructed her in the Scripture. Her religious enthusiasm was heightened with the coming of Matthias who possessed such religious enthusiasm that his followers believed him to be a prophet. Isabella soon set out for the "East," and enroute became Sojourner Truth. She shook audiences and crowds with her soft and pleasant but man-like voice. Illiteracy was no handicap. Her courage at a Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, her admonishing question to Fred Douglas, "Is God Dead?" and her encounterances with two of the Presidents of the United States are vividly described.

Mr. Fauset, has, through painstaking research, produced a charming and enlightening description of "one of America's most spectacular and loveable characters." The volume is a distinctive contribution to Negro history, and should stimulate the unearthing of fragments of materials preserved here and there on other Negro world builders.

Today's -- BOOK --

SOJOURNER TRUTH, God's Faithful Pilgrim, by Arthur Huff Fauset. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. 187 pp. $1.00.

Reviewed by FRANCES PEABODY M'KAY

It is with a great lack of proper appreciation, inbred for generations, that a Southerner reads a biography of a Negro slave who was revolutionary in every sense and attained notoriety in the North even before the rebellious days of the Civil War.

Such a person was Isabella, who in middle life changed her name to Sojourner Truth, because "I am to travel up and down the land, showing the people their sins, and being a sign unto them," she said.

She was born a slave and spent her life, until she was a young married woman, in slavery. Then she ran away but was bought and given her freedom and a job by a friendly family.

Isabella, as she was then known, found her way to New York eventually and became connected with a group of religious eccentrics.

At middle age she "heard a voice from Heaven" telling her to "go." From this time until her death she was a wanderer, a crusader, a politician, a champion of causes. She preached religion and prayed with power, she militated against slum conditions among freed slaves in Washington and finally advocated a settlement in the West for unemployed ex-slaves, which occupied the last days of her life.

SOJOURNER TRUTH is the second volume in the Chapel Hill Series of Negro Biographies to be edited by Benjamin Brawley of Howard University who is also author of the first volume, PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR.

"The purpose of the series," according to an editorial announcement, "is to provide interesting, inexpensive and authentic biographies of prominent American Negroes; books that will prove attractive and readable to a large public, white as well as Negro."

"Subjects of future volumes will be Richard Allen, Paul Cuffe, Lott Cary, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Daniel A. Payne and Booker T. Washington."

Harvard To Use His Text

Dr. WM. H. DEAN, Jr.

Harvard Classes To Use Book Written By Atlanta U. Professor

Dr. William H. Dean, Jr., of the department of economics of Atlanta University has just received word that the Harvard University Press will finance the publication of thirty thousand words of his Ph. D. thesis entitled "The Location of Economic Activities." It was at the request of the economics faculty of the University that the book was printed published. It will be a limited edition for class-room use at Harvard, and is expected to be used until such time as the author's larger work upon the subject appears.

Dr. Dean is a summa cum laude graduate of Bowdoin College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. His Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees were received at Harvard University where he is now engaged in research as a Rosenwald Fellow.

Dr. Robt. Weaver and Dr. Ernest Alexander Write In Opportunity

Because future public housing in the United States will be decentralized, Negroes as individuals and groups must become increasingly articulate in regard to low-rent housing, declares Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Special Assistant to Administrator Nathan Straus of the U. S. Housing Authority, in an article appearing in the July issue of Opportunity.

"In the last analysis," Dr. Weaver writes, "the extent of the participation of Negroes in the program of the United States Housing Authority will reflect the alertness and activity of the Negro leadership in the various local communities of the nation.

"We must see problems as citizens and integral units of our communities. We must perfect techniques to vitalize the housing needs of the Negroes in our cities. When we have done this and have secured housing facilities for colored citizens, we must create opportunities in the field of housing for colored architects, engineers, and managers. Lastly, but of greatest importance, we must protect the rights of Negro labor. Provisions assuring the use of Negro skilled and unskilled workers must be made before projects are begun. As housing become increasingly more of a local problem, so these activities become increasingly local affairs."

In another article appearing in this issue of the magazine, Dr. Ernest Alexander outlines the fight upon venereal disease now being waged throughout the country.

"Negro physicians," Dr. Alexander states, "are already cooperating gladly in this campaign. They konw that the greatest imminent danger, as it relates to the Negro, is the unwarranted tendency of certain individuals and groups to play up the incidence of syphilis in the Negro race far in excess of figures supported by careful, adequate, and unbiased scientific study. Quotation of comparative percentages is unimportant in the general program and is already imposing an undue economic hardship on Negroes by creating employer hysteria with resultant further decrease in employment of Negroes. This unpardonable type of propaganda has done irreparable harm to Negroes, particularly domestics, in many localities."

A third article featured in the July issue is entitled "The Color Problem Among Students in London." Written by Mary Trevelyan, warden of the Student Movement House in London, it tells of the racial situations which the Negro student must face when he matriculates at one of London's many institutions of higher learning.

Other features are short stories by Marita Bonner and Victor Lawson poems by Langston Hughes, J. S Jackson and Marcus B. Christian and book reviews by Lester Granger and Allison Davis.

BOOKLET HONORS HOPE.

A booklet dedicated to the late John Hope, president of Morehouse College from 1906 to 1931 and president of Atlanta University from 1929 to 1936, has been published by the trustees of the two negro institutions.

Slave Traffic Data.

ISAAC FRANKLIN, Slave Trader and Planter of the Old South. By Wendell Holmes Stephenson. Louisiana State University Press. 368 pp. $3.

This work of historical research contains a short, compact and heavily documented history of the slave traffic, as practiced in the period about 1830. The firm of Franklin and Armfield was at one time the largest firm in the slave trade and maintained correspondents and contacts throughout the entire south. But Isaac Franklin, in his dual capacity as slave trader and planter, also serves to illustrate the author's main theme—namely, the question whether the large-scale plantation of the old south, utilizing slave labor, was economically justified. To this end the author has gathered an immense mass of information from the books of the Franklin plantations in Louisiana and the records of West Feliciana Parish. A painstaking and thorough-going job, historically valuable, but it would seem of scant interest to the casual reader, who will find himself unable to digest its results. The 150 pages of text preceding this mass of data are, however, of a decidedly high order, both as entertainment and as historical information.

OLE H. LEXAU.

SOJOURNER TRUTH, GOD'S FAITHFUL PILGRIM, by Arthur Huff Fauset (University of North Carolina Press, $1). One of the Chapel Hill series of Negro biographies, telling the unusual story of Isabella Van Wagener (1797-1883), an illiterate slave who became the friend and comrade of the Abolitionist leaders. Not a first-rate writing job, and sometimes naive in style and viewpoint, but very interesting for its picture of a vital, exciting life.

ISAAC FRANKLIN, SLAVE TRADER AND PLANTER OF THE OLD SOUTH, by Wendell Holmes Stephenson (Louisiana State University Press, $3). A fine piece of original research into a little-known aspect of Southern history: the practical management of the cotton plantations. Fine detail on financial transactions and the relation of the planter to the "factor"; an introductory section gives a good picture of Louisiana life. Required reading for the serious student of pre-Civil War history; not intended for the layman.

Nighttime in Dixie

Forty Acres and Steel Mules, by Herman Clarence Nixon. Chapel Hill : The University of North Carolina Press. 105 pages. $2.50.

FARMERS are notoriously an exploited class, and the South has half of the farmers in the United States. Unorganized labor is exploited, and the South has more unorganized labor than any other section of equivalent area. Negroes are exploited, and the South has two-thirds of all the Negroes in the United States.

This concentration within the region of three conspicuously luckless groups seems to Mr. Nixon an adequate explanation of the story of exploitation—"with many Southerners participating in the winnings"—that unfolds in his examination of agriculture in the South. He is no witch-hunter. He is skeptical of the personal-devil explanation of the ills that beset us, and even when he discovers an occasional Simon Legree, he inspects him with the cool curiosity of an entomologist studying a repulsive but interesting bug.

But this objectivity serves only to make more effective his indictment of existing conditions in the southeastern states. It is the dismal story of a land rich in every element, save one, that goes into the making of a great civilization; but the missing element, unfortunately, is a leadership socially enlightened, lacking which all the other riches have been frittered away until the land today is the poorest of the poor.

Mr. Nixon has written for the general reader, in clear, non-technical language, the description of a highly complex situation. The clarity of his writing is assisted by about 150 photographs furnished by the Farm Security Administration, which are frequently more eloquent than any text could be. One thing that emerges distinctly from his pages is the reason for the relative failure of all the missionary effort that idealists from other sections have expended upon the South. It is a fact that "the ills of the South are ills of class more than of region or section." The overlapping of three exploited classes is what concentrates below the Potomac ills that nevertheless exist everywhere. The idealists have never abolished exploitation at home: why should they be more successful against the heavier concentration of the evil in the South?

"Forty Acres and Steel Mules" is a somber book and yet its very existence has a significance that is not somber. Mr. Nixon is a Southerner; the University of North Carolina, whose Press published his book, is a Southern university. Surely, here is evidence that the element hitherto missing, the element of socially enlightened leadership, is beginning to appear. It is late indeed, but it is certainly not too late to begin the rebuilding of the South for the wiser and better use of its still immense material and human wealth.

GERALD W. JOHNSON

Today's -- BOOK --

OUTHWAYS, by Erskine Caldwell. The Viking Press, New York. 206 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by
KATHERINE M'CLURE ANDERSON

Readers of Caldwell, I have found; belong in savagely opposing groups. Some consider him Zola-esque in his attempts to improve conditions by ruthlessly exposing them through his writings, and that his deep social consciousness concerning the Southern tenant-farmer will in time lead others to do much in the way of alleviating their pitiable plight. There are others (and I suspect they have really read little of his work and that surreptiously) who blame him for presenting Georgia as a state of only one long muddy Road—Tobacco.

However, few can deny among his readers, that Caldwell can write and that his technique is improving yearly. The short stories collected here under the title SOUTHWAYS (his first volume of them since KNEEL TO THE RISING SUN) are ample enough proof. These stories are shorter, and in many instances better, proving that he can set his stage, present his characters and their situations in fewer words, without losing any of his former punch. The circumstances and characters are, of course, those that Caldwell has made individually his own.

Humorous situations far outweigh the tragic in this collection. Humor, of the chuckling kind, abounds in The Negro In The Well, which has a Joel Chandler Harris tang, except that humans are substituted for the well-beloved animals. It concerns fox-hound loving Mule (without enough hounds) who decides to leave another fox-hound loving neighbor (with enough hounds) in the well into which he has fallen neck high, until he shall decide to affect his rescue in the manner agreeable to his potential rescuer (who hasn't enough hounds, remember.)

Nine Dollars Worth of Mumble, was all Youster Brown found he had, when he discovered, to his sorrow, that the curse he had bought on old Matty, who guarded his girl Sis, had been canceled out by the one she had bought on him from the same conjuror, Sally Lucky.

Hamrick's Polar Bear is a delightful story of a real polar bear who had escaped from a traveling circus, taken his long hibernation, and who had awaken hungry and with the desire for a nice friendly wrestle now and then.

Snacker presents the humorous problem of a prep schoo football player who had to bring a girl to the annual football banquet in order to get in himself. The Fly In The Coffin is the fantastic tale of an old Negro who hated flies so that he could not die and be buried properly until a swatter had been provided him in his coffin The Night My Old Man Came Home is told through the eyes of a small boy, who, too young to be troubled by his father's drunkenness and desertion, finds his feat of breaking Ma's best rocker to pieces with his hands and throwing the parts on the fire, a wonderfully exciting treat.

A Knife To Cut The Bread With is reminiscent in many ways with Kneel To The Rising Sun in that it deals with the tenant-farmer's slow starvation. Wild Flowers tells the story of the death in childbirth on the road of a tenant-farmer's wife, evicted from her home, along with her husband. The same shelterless highway furnishes the setting for the last story, Man And Woman who, sick and hungry are traveling to see the grave of their baby. Tragedy as a theme is suffused through three other stories, New Cabin The Sunfield and Carnival.

Tragic or humorous, underlying all these stories lies Caldwell's unspoken, but gravely implied, social comment. He has come a long way from the sexual aberations that once discolored his meanings.

(SOUTHWAYS is published today.)

Bibliography -1938

The Digest - -

4-9-38

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

Millions It is cheering to see several Negro business enterprises now in the million dollar class. In the annual statement of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, there were several million-dollar items—assets, five million; legal reserve, four million; insurance in force, forty-one million, etc.

Atlanta Life Insurance company reports: assets, three million; income in '37, two million; legal reserve, nearly two million. The Afro-American Life of Jacksonville, Fla., reports: assets, a million and income last year, a million. Supreme Liberty Life of Chicago, now reputed to be the largest Negro business enterprise in the North, reports: assets, two million; legal reserve, nearly two million; insurance in force, thirty-six million. The American Woodmen of Denver report assets of over three million. Universal Life of Memphis had income of a million last year. In the banking field, the Mechanics & Farmers of Durham reports assets of nearly a million and a half. Surprising are the gains made by these institutions in the depression years. Our best brains is not all in the field of education, nor in the professions.

FLOYD CALVIN

Books For Children The current Horn Book Magazine, which is devoted to books and reading for young people, published at 264 Boylston street, Boston, carries an article on "Books Negro Children Like," by Marjorie Hill Allee. This article, which largely concerns the work of Miss Edith Moon, librarian at the Foster School, Evanston, has three striking paragraphs of general interest to the Negro public. The author says.

"By and large, in the lower grades, any well-written book that most children like will be read by some colored child with pleasure. Animal stories are great favorites, so are stories about other American children, and, to a much lesser extent, those about foreign children. Books about Negro children are an especial pleasure, when they are well chosen, but many a well-intentioned but ignorant publisher has damned a book for Negro use for want of informed editing. 'Nigger' is a fighting word and is likely to be scratched out of the book by an indignant child. 'Picaninny' and 'darky' are almost as objectionable.

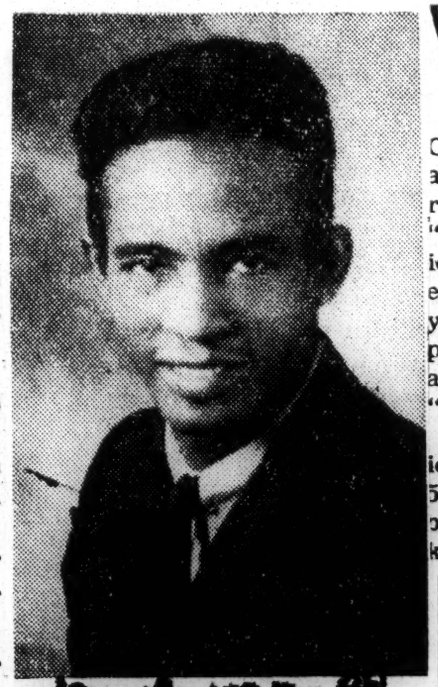
"The Southern Negro child does not like stories of old plantation life; he is still too close to those times and manners. The northern Negro child often feels sufficiently remote to enjoy such a story, just as he might enjoy a tale of old Bohemia. There is little interest among children in stories whose chief reason for being is an African background; but as the children grow older they are intensely interested in their own background and their own heroes in this country, such as Paul Robeson and Harriet Tubman.

"Some of the Foster School favorites among books about Negroes are Evans' 'Araminta and Jerome Anthony,' Enright's 'Little Xintu' and Bontemps' 'Sad-Faced Boy'; in biography, Haynes' 'Unsung Heroes' and Bullock's 'In Spite of Handicaps'; and they like Cuthbert's 'We Sing America,' a simple but very excellently selected little volume of facts about American Negroes."

We trust book publishers will note this viewpoint, and govern themselves accordingly. Some white people have a naive way of presenting insulting material to Negroes and apparently expecting them to like it.

The author's summation is admirably stated: "Briefly, we might say that a book on an American topic, clearly written in a vocabulary not beyond that of a fourth grade child, and exhibiting ordinary courtesy when and if it treats of Negroes, is as likely to please a colored child as a white one. A Negro child will not be fooled by shoddiness of characterization, nor will he be tolerant of muddled action, any more than the white child; perhaps less, for his mind seems to work with a more direct simplicity."

Two-Tone Story



ERIC (RIC) ROBERTS

—Solicited by National Boxing Year Book to write an article treating boxing as it affects both races in the south, was honored along with 42 other writers (all white) from the nation's biggest newspapers as an expert on the sport.

For 14 years a sports commentator, 10 of them as [illegible] Daily World and SNS Sports Editor, his Louis-Baer ringside story was featured in Editor & Publisher, (November 1935). No colored writer has ever before been featured in such fast company as the 320 page "Bible of the Boxing Game" boasts. His story written for the annual, appears on the sports page of this edition.

Dr. T. H. Copeland Writes Youth Book

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His latest book has received national comment and is being sold for 50c. Any one desiring copies of this book, write Dr. T. H. Copeland, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Today's -- BOOK --

THESE BARS OF FLESH, by T. S. Stribling. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., New York. 344 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by BLYTHE L. M'KAY

Once again T. S. Stribling, the master of satire, writes of the South, its people and its customs. But this time, in THESE BARS OF FLESH, the author of such comprehensive Southern studies as were included in the trilogy, THE STORE, THE FORGE and UNFINISHED CATHEDRAL, uses a lighter touch and a sweeter tone; one he shouldn't have kept hidden from his readers this long.

With the lighter touch is a deeper sympathy for his victims than has been apparent in previous books. The result is a book which possesses vastly greater readability. It is a friendly chuckle at a Georgian, or especially a Georgian, will relish.

In displaying the foibles of [illegible] Southern politician, Mr. Stribling includes equally as many sly pokes at the seriousness and efficiency of the North, so no one section of the country suffers all the probing by the sharp and penetrating blade of his wit.

Because, before the story starts, his hero has fathered a bill in the state legislature making it illegal for a man without a college degree to hold the office of county school superintendent, Andrew S. Barnett finds himself in an embarrassing position, "Swinging at the end of his own halter." Not re-elected to the legislature, he runs for county school superintendent and wins "hands down." Forced by his own law to acquire a degree before he can hold the office, Barnett goes to Megapolis to pick one up during the summer session of the university. Obviously, Megapolis, the scene of Stribling's political satire, THE SOUND WAGON, is New York, and the university sounds like Columbia.

"There is always something funny about Northern idiosyncracies of a Southerner," the author writes, and while he is pointing them out he is many sly pokes at the seriousness and efficiency making Andrew Barnett an amusing puzzle to of the North, so no one section of the country the Northerners among whom he is struggling suffers all the probing by the sharp and pene- to get his degree. He draws out to light and laughtrating blade of his wit. ter the Southerner's superstitions, his pus

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Bibliography —1938

The Digest - -

4-9-38

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

Millions It is cheering to see several Negro business enterprises now in the million dollar class. In the annual statement of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, there were several million-dollar items—assets, five million; legal reserve four million; insurance in force, forty-one million, etc.

Atlanta Life Insurance company reports: assets, three million income in '37, two million; legal reserve, nearly two million. The Afro-American Life of Jacksonville, Fla., reports: assets, a million and income last year, a million. Supreme Liberty Life of Chicago, now reputed to be the largest Negro business enterprise in the North, reports: assets, two million; legal reserve, nearly two million; insurance in force, thirty-six million. The American Woodmen of Denver report assets of over three million. Universal Life of Memphis had income of a million last year. In the banking field, the Mechanics & Farmers of Durham reports assets of nearly a million and a half. Surprising are the gains made by these institutions in the depression years. Our best brains is not all in the field of education, nor in the profession

FLOYD CALVIN

Books For Children The current Horn Book Magazine, which is devoted to books and reading for young people, published at 264 Boylston street, Boston, carries an article on "Books Negro Children Like," by Marjorie Hill Allee. This article, which largely concerns the work of Miss Edith Moon, librarian at the Foster School, Evanston, has three striking paragraphs of general interest to the Negro public. The author says.

"By and large, in the lower grades, any well-written book that most children like will be read by some colored child with pleasure. Animal stories are great favorites, so are stories about other American children, and, to a much lesser extent, those about foreign children. Books about Negro children are an especial pleasure, when they are well chosen, but many a well-intentioned but ignorant publisher has damned a book for Negro use for want of informed editing. 'Nigger' is a fighting word and is likely to be scratched out of the book by an indignant child. 'Picaninny' and 'darky' are almost as objectionable.

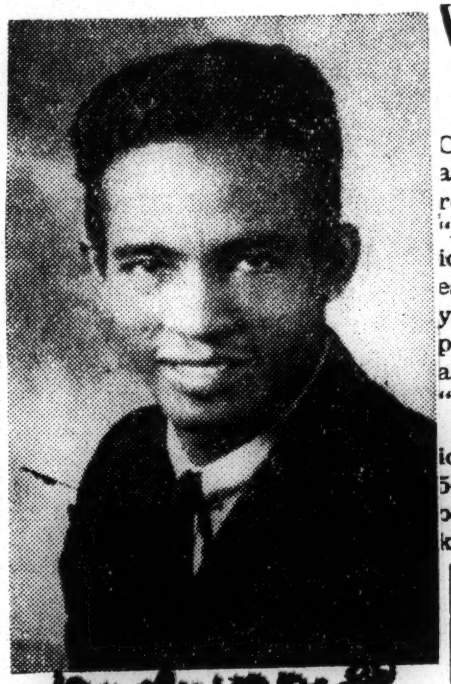
"The Southern Negro child does not like stories of old plantation life; he is still too close to those times and manners. The northern Negro child often feels sufficiently remote to enjoy such a story, just as he might enjoy a tale of old Bohemia. There is little interest among children in stories whose chief reason for being is an African background; but as the children grow older they are intensely interested in their own background and their own heroes in this country, such as Paul Robeson and Harriet Tubman.

"Some of the Foster School favorites among books about Negroes are Evans' 'Araminta and Jerome Anthony,' Enright's 'Little Kintu' and Bontemps' 'Sad-Faced Boy'; in biography, Haynes' 'Unsung Heroes' and Bullock's 'In Spite of Handicaps'; and they like Cuthbert's 'We Sing America,' a simple but very excellently selected little volume of facts about American Negroes."

We trust book publishers will note this viewpoint, and govern themselves accordingly. Some white people have a naive way of presenting insulting material to Negroes and apparently expecting them to like it.

The author's summation is admirably stated: "Briefly, we might say that a book on an American topic, clearly written in a vocabulary not beyond that of a fourth grade child, and exhibiting ordinary courtesy when and if it treats of Negroes, is as likely to please a colored child as a white one. A Negro child will not be fooled by shoddiness of characterization, nor will he be tolerant of muddled action, any more than the white child; perhaps less, for his mind seems to work with a more direct simplicity."

Two-Tone Story



ERIC (RIC) ROBERTS

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Dean B. E. Mays Will Sail For Europe On Queen Mary Soon

Benjamin E. Mays, Dean of the School of Religion of Howard University, Washington, D. C., sails for Stockholm, Sweden May 11 on the SS QUEEN MARY to attend the Plenary Session of the World Committee of the YMCA. As he sails, the NEGRO'S GOD, being published by Chapman & Grimes, Boston, is about ready to come off the press.

In his book Dean Mays traces the development of the idea of God in Negro literature from the time of Jupiter Hammon up to the present. Mr. Mays returns to the University June 6.

GOOD MORNING

By LOUIE D. NEWTON

JOHN JASPER.

Dr. G. J. Davis was telling me the other day about going out to see John Jasper's monument and the meeting house in which he preached, while attending the convention in Richmond last week. He got me thinking about John Jasper, and I went that night and read again Dr. William E. Hatcher's charming book on the great Virginia negro Baptist preacher. The book was published by the Revells back in 1908. If you've never head the book I wish I might provoke you to do so. I am grateful that Dr. Hatcher found the time to write this book while it was possible to record the life story of John Jasper from first-hand knowledge of the remarkable man.

You will not expect me to outline the book in this brief space, but suffice it to say that Dr. Hatcher presents the picture of this unlettered negro preacher, born in 1839, the twenty-fourth child of Phillip and Nina Jasper, slaves on a Virginia plantation, going in his early boyhood to Richmond to work for a Mr. Hargrove—Mars Sam, as Jasper always called him—in a tobacco factory, his conversion, his call to the ministry, his rise to local and then national fame; his marvelous knowledge of the Bible, his exceptional ability as an orator, his success in building a great church, his debates with notable men regarding astronomy as a result of his thesis that "De sun do move," his unfaltering allegiance to his white friends following the emancipation, his dramatic death.

In this volume, which I am trying to provoke you to read, you will find several of Jasper's sermons in his native dialect, notably, "Whar Sin Kum Frum," "Dem Sebun Wimmin'," "De Stone Cut'er De Mountin'," "De Sun Do Muv," and "Grave! Grave! Whar's Yer Vict'ry?" That last sermon on Heaven is one of the grandest things I have ever read. Jasper carries on a dialogue between God and Death, in which he causes Death to say:

"Ain't got no vict'ry now; had vict'ry, but King Jesus pars'd thru dis lan' an' tord my banners down."

When Jasper died it was as the fall of a tower, and the Richmond Dispatch carried as its leading editorial one of the finest tributes ever paid an American. Many declare that he was the greatest preacher yet produced in America. I wouldn't want to go that far, but I must believe that he stands among the truly great of earth—a man who worked hard for nearly a century in child-like trust in the goodness and mercy of God, often declaring in shouting notes of praise, "Oh, what mus' it be to be thar!" by which he meant to express his eternal hope of coming at last to see his Saviour face to face.

Two New Books Of Poetry Out

NEW YORK—Two new books of poems, one of them by a Louisville public school principal, have been announced by Henry Harrison, publisher, here. The other volume is by Lucy Mae Turner of St. Louis, Ill.

Joseph H. Cotter, Sr., principal for the fiftieth year of the Coleridge-Taylor High School in Louisville, is the author of 'Collected Poems'. Mr. Cotter was born in 1861 and for several years has been listed in 'Who's Who in America'. He is the author of several books already and a number of songs. He has written one play that enjoyed overwhelming success.

Miss Turner is a granddaughter of Nat Turner of the famous slave rebellion. Her mother was the daughter of the man who built one of the country's first colored churches. She is a graduate of Wilberforce. Her book is titled 'Bout Cullud Folkses."

Present New Books By Negro Poets

Henry Harrison, poetry publisher, 79 Fourth Avenue, New York, announces for publication on August 1, two books of verse by Negro poets: Joseph S. Cotter, Sr., of 2306 Magazine street, Louisville, Ky., and Lucy Mae Turner, 1946 Bond avenue, East St. Louis, Ill. Mr. Cotter's book is entitled "Collected Poems," and Miss Turner's "'Bout Cullud Folkses."

Mr. Cotter, a product of the Louisville public schools, has recently been elected as teacher and principal for the fiftieth year. He is at present principal of the S. Coleridge-Taylor colored school. Of Scotch, Irish, English, Indian and Negro blood, Mr. Cotter was born in Nelson County, Ky., on Feb. 2, 1861. He is listed in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who Among North American Authors," and "The Authors' League of America." He is the author of "A Rhyming," "Links of Friendship," "Caleb, the Degenerate," "A White Song and a Black One," "Negro Tales," etc., and the following songs: "I'm Wondering," "Without Jesus," and "Going to Georgia." Of his play, "Caleb the Degenerate,' 'the late Alfred Austin, poet laureate of England, wrote: "It affords further evidence of the latent capacity of your long-maltreated race." From the great English actress, Mrs. Langtry, came "The play is interesting and ought to find a place worthy of its merits among the works on Negro literature."

Lucy Mae Turner was born in Zanesville, Ohio. Her father, Gilbert Turner, was the son of Nat Turner, a slave who raised a rebellion against slavery in Virginia in 1831. Her mother was the daughter of Rev. Isaac Jones who built the first colored Baptist church in Putnam, Ohio. Miss Turner is a graduate of Wilberforce university, and holds a B. S. degree from Ohio State university. She is at present a public school teacher in East St. Louis, Ill.

The Harrison firm also announces an extension of time in which Negro poets may contribute to "New Negro Voices," which is being edited by Beatrice M. Murphy of 1414 Q St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Miss Murphy reports that gratifying progress is being made on this anthology, and that among the recent well-known contributors is Langston Hughes who recently sailed for Europe to attend a writers' congress.

Poets who have not yet contributed to "New Negro Voices" are urged to send their best poems directly to Miss Murphy, accompanied by a self addressed, stamped envelope for the return of unacceptable material. There are no restrictions as to subject matter, form or length. The closing date for manuscript has been extended to September 1. The book will be published in late fall.

A Back to the Farm Movement

R F D. *By Charles Allen Smart. W. W. Norton & Co., $2.50*

"A FARM is a very poor place to earn a living in the ordinary meaning of that phrase, and a very rich and splendid place to earn a living in every other meaning of that phrase. I mean in the growing, so to speak, of ideas sensations, intuitions, feelings, sympathies, and delight in saction, of all those things that alone justify work and money."

In this, one of the closing sentences of his book, a city bred man tells what he thinks of rural life after having farmed for three years. He does find it good. But he finds it tough going, too, in spots, and readily admits that certain circumstances permitted him to carry on where probably the majority of city men would fail miserably. Farming demands so much of a person that he and his wife have been ready for anything short of sleeping with the pigs.

But because this author does go in for farming not as a pastime but to make a living, because he can contrast farm life with city life, and because he is no slouch of a writer, his book is both entertaining and useful. For ministers it is far more useful than most of the books on the small town and rural church, and that in spite of the fact that the author unfortunately, barely mentions the church and is not himself a churchgoing man. But he has learned something of what it means to battle hand to hand with the thousand and one enemies the farmer has to meet. He has ministered to livestock in sub-zero weather and sowed fields at the cost of much labor only to have the drouth burn out the very possibilities. He has stood by helplessly while raging floods washed away his land. And all this is important, this picture of the man to whom some of us are called to preach.

He has become closely acquainted with farm people, and has found in them a strength, a wisdom, a kindness, a courage that city civilization does not develop in people. He wishes that farmers would think more of "use" and less of profits. He is strong for cooperative agencies among them and for such organizations as the Farm Bureau. Although the author is a radical in about every way you can imagine, and states his economic views dogmatically, there are any number of good arguments to be found in support of his views on what the American farmer must do to be saved.

And of course he has seen and revelled in nature as not even the average farmer can. There are parts of the book that read like Grayson's *Adventures in Contentment*, a characterization for which the author probably will not thank me. But they are there nevertheless, and every bit as comforting. He enjoys and loves the birds, the bees, the trees, the babbling brook, and writes tenderly of his loves.

WARE W. WIMBERLY.

Bibliography - 1938

FROM G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS GREAT CENTENNIAL LIST

Newyork Times - Book Review 9-25-38

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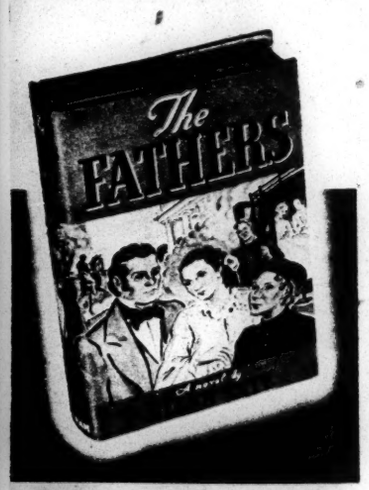
A STORY OF THE SOUTH IN THE CRITICAL YEARS CULMINATING IN THE CIVIL WAR

THE FATHERS



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See your bookseller early tomorrow for a first edition

PRICE $2.50

BOOK REVIEW

By Wm. A. FOWLKES, Jr.

"Nya," by Stephen Haggard (Faber, 8s. 6d.).—Whether Nya, the heroine of Mr. Haggard's book got her name from Nyasaland, where she was born and lived until her thirteenth year, or from her Native appellation—*Nyalingwe*, little leopard—does not appear in its early pages; but she was an original child, with disturbing views on herself, her relatives, her school and on life generally—all related by the author with gusto and embarrassing frankness in the modern manner. It is a story well worth reading, brightly written and full of incident; and no doubt it does give an idea of how a child born in East Africa and allowed to run more or less wild in her childhood might develop when sent to England to "finish." Parents in East Africa may even find in it useful warnings.

THE WHITE NIGGER. Winfield P. Woolf and Angus Elgin Orr, co-authors. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston, Copyright 1938. Price $2.50.

"The White Nigger," besides its catchy title, proves enthralling and exciting as a story of pre-Civil War days in the deep South. Indeed, the setting is a middle Georgia County (Ogiethorpe) and the story lives with real history of the period.

Decidedly different from the majority of other novels which attempt to depict the same period and the relationships between masters and their slaves, "The White Nigger" tells of an octoroon slave mother who exchanges her dead Typhoid Fever-stricken baby with her mistress' offspring, who happens to be the same age. Her mistress dies at the same time and the grief-stricken master throws up his hands in grief and fails with others to detect the deception. The secret is harbored safely because of her octoroon qualities.

From the time young Steve, a slave in the household of slavery-hating Colonel Stephen Cater, meets younger Mary Anderson when her white physician father and the colonel clash over the latter's eating with the lad, the reader feels that the story will end with their falling in love and marrying, though there is never a mistakening of "place" throughout the entire story until a few days before events prove Steve to be white.

Strangely, the principals in the southern story hate slavery and dealers. Mary's father is killed by a slave-trader when she is little more than six years old from whom he took an enslaved Filipino (classed as white) and gained freedom in the Georgia Supreme Court. From that time on, Mary lives in the household of Colonel Cater, where she and Steve grow up together. Steve and Mary receive almost identical educational instruction at the hands of first Colonel Cater and later an imported Yankee tutor. He is called "white nigger" by the other slave boys on the plantation but whips them all one by one until he wins their respect. Steve once saves his "Little Misy's" life from a panther attack.

When Colonel dies with Mary in her early teens, he leaves most of his estate to her, however providing for his near-kin and slaves, freeing most of them at their will and leaving sizeable sums to Steve and his mother, Miranda. Mary enters a girls' school at Macon, where she stays during most of the period of the Civil War, Steve staying on the plantation as overseer, in his new status and at a salary. He has no time for other women throughout the story, proving a one-woman man, even before his real admirations can be made known.

During the war, Steve sells cotton from the plantation at a profit, is mistakened for a white man on almost every occasion, and fights in the war on the side of the Confederates during short periods. When Mary goes back to the plantation for a brief visit, in company with Steve and a young woman friend she returns to the branch at which she was once saved from death at the claws of an animal for a drink of water. Looking into the water, she sees for the first time a reflection of "lovelight-in the eyes" of Steve, becomes angered and starts to strike him with her riding whip, then sends him away instantly. That night in bed however, she cannot sleep, her mind still resentful at a Negro's 'dare,' but venturing to believe fully that he must not be colored after all.

Steve goes away, through the lines of the Northern and Southern armies, stops at New York, Niagara and finally ends in Canada, where he meets a refugee for a federal officers' prison near Toledo, Ohio, whom he once befriends in the South. The officer "proves" by looking at the skin under the finger nails and finding them pink, among other stigmata lines, that Steve is white. Steve admits that his mother refused to discuss the matter of his father with him fully and that she would never eat at the same table with him, though it was a common practice for him to eat with the late Colonel Cater.

Steve decides to make a trip back South to clear up the situation. In the meantime, Union "stragglers" have entered the Fairview plantation home of Mary Anderson and are molesting her, an aunt and Steve's mother, Miranda, for food and later for pleasure. Steve is hurrying home, Miranda feeling by instinct that he is coming to save them. He barely gets there after a long journey, and, while Mary is dodging one of the culprits' attentions, makes a bold entrance. He kills one of the men with a jiu jutsu neck punch, but is only saved from death himself by Miranda, his mother, who jumps between him and a rifle-firing antagonist.

Shot and nearing death, Miranda tells Steve that she is not his mother and how she has deceived through the years, because she had been made a slave by her mistress' sister and then lost both husband and son.

Steve and Mary are reconciled and become engaged before he ventures into the Canadian wilds as an explorer. He has tried to get a ruling favoring his claim as heir to his father's property (left to Mary by will) that he might indeed be the family head, but is cited the Georgia law and refused. In the Canada trip, he is lucky enough to find a gold ore pocket which bolsters his wealth. Back in Georgia, he marries and within two years leads the move to repeal that provision of the state law which deprived married women of their own property and guardianship of their own children. He is later elected governor of the state, living a happy married life.

The 307-page book is especially recommended for reading by Georgians as most of the entire story centers around Augusta, Athens, Atlanta and other Union Point, Georgia centers. It's north "inside" approach to the history and social practices of the pre-Civil War period is outstanding.

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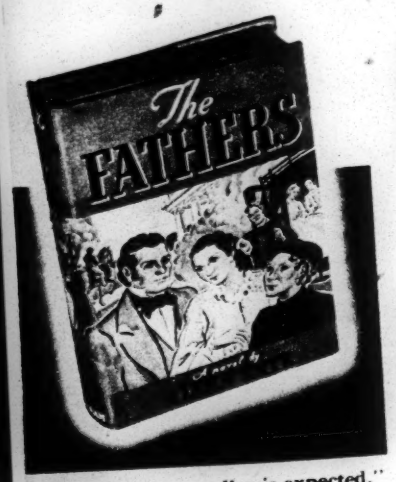

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By Wm. A. FOWLKES, Jr.

THE WHITE NIGGER. Winfield P. Woolf and Angus Elgin Orr, co-authors. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston, Copyright 1938. Price $2.50.

"The White Nigger," besides its catchy title, proves enthralling and exciting as a story of pre-Civil War days in the deep South. Indeed, the setting is a middle Georgia County (Oglethorpe) and the story lives with real history of the period.

Decidedly different from the majority of other novels which attempt to depict the same period and the relationships between masters and their slaves, "The White Nigger" tells of an octoroon slave mother who exchanges her dead Typhoid Fever-stricken baby with her mistress' offspring, who happens to be the same age. Her mistress dies at the same time and the grief-stricken master throws up his hands in grief and fails with others to detect the deception. The secret is harbored safely because of her octoroon qualities.

From the time young Steve, a slave in the household of slavery-hating Colonel Stephen Cater, meets younger Mary Anderson when her white physician father and the colonel clash over the latter's eating with the lad, the reader feels that the story will end with their falling in love and marrying, though there is never a mistakening of "place" throughout the entire story until a few days before events prove Steve to be white.

Strangely, the principals in the southern story hate slavery and dealers. Mary's father is killed by a slave-trader when she is little more than six years old from whom he took an enslaved Filipino (classed as white) and gained freedom in the Georgia Supreme Court. From that time on, Mary lives in the household of Colonel Cater, where she and Steve grow up together. Steve and Mary receive almost identical educational instruction at the hands of first Colonel Cater and later an imported Yankee tutor. He is called "white nigger" by the other slave boys on the plantation but whips them all one by one until he wins their respect. Steve once saves his "Little Miss's" life from a panther attack.

When Colonel dies with Mary in her early teens, he leaves most of his estate to her, however providing for his near-kin and slaves, freeing most of them at their will and leaving sizeable sums to Steve and his mother, Miranda. Mary enters a girls' school at Macon, where she stays during most of the period of the Civil War, Steve staying on the plantation as overseer. In his new status and at a salary. He has no time for other women throughout the story, proving a one-woman man, even before his real admirations can be made known.

During the war, Steve sells cotton from the plantation at a profit, is mistakened for a white man on almost every occasion, and fights in the war on the side of the Confederates during short periods.

When Mary goes back to the plantation for a brief visit, in company with Steve and a young woman friend she returns to the branch at which she was once saved from death at the claws of an animal for a drink of water. Looking into the water, she sees for the first time a reflection of "lovelight-in the eyes" of Steve, becomes angered and starts to strike him with her riding whip, then sends him away instantly. That night in bed however, she cannot sleep, her mind still resentful at a Negro's 'dare,' but venturing to believe fully that he must not be colored after all

Steve goes away, through the lines of the Northern and Southern armies, stops at New York, Niagara and finally ends in Canada, where he meets a refugee for a federal officers' prison near Toledo, Ohio, whom he once befriends in the South The officer "proves" by looking at the skin under the finger nails and finding them pink, among other stigmata lines, that Steve is white. Steve admits that his mother refused to discuss the matter of his father with him fully and that she would never eat at the same table with him, though it was a common practice for him to eat with the late Colonel Cater.

Steve decides to make a trip back South to clear up the situation. In the meantime, Union "stragglers" have entered the Fairview plantation home of Mary Anderson and are molesting her, an aunt and Steve's mother, Miranda, for food and later for pleasure. Steve is hurrying home, Miranda feeling by instinct that he is coming to save them. He barely gets there after a long journey, and, while Mary is dodging one of the culprits' attentions, makes a bold entrance. He kills one of the men with a jiu jutsu neck punch, but is only saved from death himself by Miranda, his mother, who jumps between him and a rifle-firing antagonist.

Shot and nearing death, Miranda tells Steve that she is not his mother and how she has deceived through the years, because she had been made a slave by her mistress' sister and then lost both husband and son.

Steve and Mary are reconciled and become engaged before he ventures into the Canadian wilds as an explorer. He has tried to get a ruling favoring his claim as heir to his father's property (left to Mary by will) that he might indeed be the family head, but is cited the Georgia law and refused. In the Canada trip, he is lucky enough to find a gold ore pocket which bolsters his wealth. Back in Georgia, he marries and within two years leads the move to repeal that provision of the state law which deprived married women of their rights and the control of their property and guardianship of their own children. He is later elected governor of the state, living a happy married life.

The 307-page book is especially recommended for reading by Geor-

"Nya," by Stephen Haggard (Faber, 8s. 6d.).—Whether Nya, the heroine of Mr. Haggard's book got her name from Nyasaland, where she was born and lived until her thirteenth year, or from her Native appellation—*Nyalingee*, little leopard—does not appear in its early pages; but she was an original child, with disturbing views on herself, her relatives, her school and on life generally—all related by the author with gusto and embarrassing frankness in the modern manner. It is a story well worth reading, brightly written and full of incident; and no doubt it does give an idea of how a child born in East Africa and allowed to run more or less wild in her childhood might develop when sent to England to "finish." Parents in East Africa may even find in it useful warnings.

Issues Book

DR. JOHN W. DAVIS

President of West Virginia State college, Institute, W. Va., whose institution has just published a booklet of candid camera shots at the college illustrating campus life from "Reveille to Taps." A total of [illegible] pictures appears in the bulletin and Miles Mc[illegible]erson was chairman of the pictorial committee.

From the Frontispiece by Alice Caddy for "Persimmon Creek."

By ELLEN LEWIS BUELL

PERSIMMON CREEK. By Nellie Page Carter. Illustrated by Alice Caddy. 277 pp. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. $2.

AT the moment that George Jefferson Shirley and his sister, Princess Lula Belle Ada Corinne, step off the Prairie Express and start on foot on the final lap of the journey to Persimmon Creek, they walk straight into the affections of the reader, be he little or big. These two colored children are possessed of the most ingratiating qualities of their race and their experiences with their grandmother in Missouri are recounted in a manner which equals their own spontaneity and high spirits.

It was not that Jeff was light-minded. He felt, indeed, very seriously, the responsibilities of the man of the family and was scarcely off the train before he had decided to buy a mule which could earn money for him. "Ole Bec" was the one he chose, and much of the story is taken up with his efforts to earn her, efforts which seemed sadly thwarted when Bec and Jack, whom Uncle Billy loved as a brother, were stolen, but a good boy like Jeff, nor a good mule, cannot be kept down, and Jeff himself was the one to find the mules on the way to the yearly tobacco auction.

In between times there was all sorts of excitement, large and small: the medicine show, school at Possum Trot, the cyclone which nearly blew Jeff to Kingdom Come and which furnished a fine sermon at the revival meeting, and good every day playtimes with their white friend Dick, listening to Mr. Braxton's Indian stories or Mammy's spirituals. It is a book full-flavored with the innate wisdom and good humor of the Negroes, written in a dialect so real that you almost hear the inflections of their voices, and with a humor and spirit which is matched by Alice Caddy's sprightly drawings. It should be a lasting addition to the shelf of regional stories.

Book Gives New Slant on Race Relations

By LEON LEWIS

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 13—(ANP)—Besides being an inspiring annual of Negro life and development, "Negro Participation in the Texas Centennial Exposition" by Jesse O. Thomas, gives a sociological study of Negro characteristics as they are influenced within his own group and as they are effected by, or may be applied to interracial activity.

Thomas, southern field director of the National Urban League, and who headed the administrative personnel of recognized ability as general manager of Negro Participation in the Texas Centennial gives due credit to the Lone Star State, comparatively, for its consideration of the Negro as he has participated in the development of the state, for what it has done to stamp out illiteracy and promote a higher type of education among Negroes and for advocating a general policy of inter-racial good will and fellowship.

The interesting features of the book besides a thorough and detailed description of the building housing the Negro exhibits and the exhibits themselves, are, the dedication speech of Eugene Kinkle Jones, how the Negro participation was effected, the reaction of every phase of Negro activity, the influence upon whites and the comparative courtesies accorded Negroes by white commercial interests.

LIFE MAGAZINE TELLS STORY OF THE NEGRO IN PICTURES

New York, Oct. 5—Twelve full pages of the October 3rd. issue of Life magazine contain an essay in pictures on the Negro in the United States. The pictures give a bird's eye view of the Negro's development in politics, economics, art, literature, social life, education and sports.

The panorama includes pictures of the new buildings on several Negro university campuses, a full page photo of Augusta Savage, showing the sculptor working on a figure to be shown at the New York World Fair; and more than a score of pictures of Negro leaders from Frederick Douglass to Walter White. According to observers the publication of so large a number of pictures of Negroes by a national picture magazine represents a new trend in this field.

HAITI LEADERS COMMEND "GOD AND THE NEGRO"

Recent Book of Dr. Alonzo B. Holley Endorsed by Denominations in the Oldest Negro Republic

Miami, Fla., (Special)—There has just reached this city a book commending and endorsing Dr. Alonzo P. Holley as the author of "God and the Negro." This book was recently thrown upon the market as the result of Dr. Holley's years of labor and research of the Bible from not only a Biblical and theological standpoint, but a literary and racial standpoint.

This recent book is the work of Attorney Emanuel Nazon, a distinguished citizen of the Republic of Haiti, who is the president of the Bar Association of Port-au-Prince. It was this very leading Frenchman, because they speak French down in Haiti, who welcomed Attorney S. D. Magill and his distinguished associate, who went over to Haiti on a Good Will Mission. Notable among this party was Mr. A. L. Lewis of the Afro Life, Rev. Micheaux of Washington and Major R. R. Wright of Philadelphia.

The name of the book in French is Medalion Civique. A copy was forwarded to Secretary Boyd of the National Baptist Publishing Board's plant, because on page thirty-one of the publication is the author's praise of "God And The Negro."

Dr. Holley stated: "I sent a book to the secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board so that he would know that the citizens of Haiti, the intellectuals of that Republic, had favorably commended my efforts as a writer and the superior work of that institution as publishers and printers. I was sure that he would not be able to read the French, but he could at least keep it in his library as a token from a Republic, the oldest that we know of, by Negroes."

Dr. Holley only a few years ago wrote a publication on "Our Future Relation With the Republic of Haiti." He was well prepared for such an arduous task as he is Ex-counsellor of the Republic. Along with the book in French he also sent Secretary Boyd a photograph of the five persons, of which he was one, to receive the gold honor medal presented to the five survivors who graduated from the medical college of New York fifty years ago.

—Union-Review

Bibliography - 1938

Macon, Ga., News
October 5, 1938

UNIVERSAL AS FEMALE MODESTY

After revising and re-revising, Rev. George Culpepper of Fort Valley has released his 40-page sketch of life at Pleasant Ridge, near Miona Springs, Macon county, when he was a child. The location is fourteen miles from Old Lanier, now a dead and forgotten town, but once proudly boasted it was the first capital of Macon county. Butler was twelve miles north of Pleasant Ridge, "where womanly modesty, so much admired by men, was universal."

The principal character in the sketch is "King Solomon's Son," or the old coffin maker of Pleasant Ridge. To the author was given the story of King Solomon's mating with the Queen of Sheba, among the Ethiopians the greatest story since Moses. It is given in detail by the coffin maker—all about the queen's long journey to the throne of the world's wisest man. The interview, the concession, and the result.

"King Solomon's son never told the story except to me," says the writer of the book, and he had never told it before."

Why so many tombstones tell of the early death of children in Middle Georgia during a certain period is also explained in the description of the Indian Medicine Man, and his practice among the Negroes and white people.

The author dedicates his book to the race who being out of bondage less than three-quarters of a century has produced such eminent educators as Washington, Morton and Carver of Alabama, such eloquent preachers as Bishops Turner, Holsey and Williams of Georgia; such delightful musicians as the Virginia quartet of Virgina and the Fisk Jubilee Singers of Tennessee; the most superior cooks in all the world; the most dependable and faithful servants known to man; the most watchful and protective nurses white people ever had for their little ones; to old Sylla, who rocked and hummed and crooned me to rest in my infancy, and to the memory of King Solomon's Son, the old coffin maker of Pleasant Ridge."

The author is marketing his book from his home in Fort Valley, at 50 cents a copy. It is an interesting story of a once interesting community, filled with fine people whose descendants are now scattered far and wide. In it are glimpses of Eldridge Butt, James Culver, Judge McCall, Doctor Holton, Joiner, Massey, Hudson, Roberts, Collins, Royal, Murray, Stewart, Worsham, Parks, Duke, Passmore, Rowe, Hill, Smith and Bloodworth; also Mike Felton, Myra Jessop, Robinson, Dixon, Hill, Sligh, Lindsay Douglas and Frederick, and many others.

Romance In Southern Setting

RIVERESCO, by Bill Henson, Christopher Publishing House, Boston Mass., 334 pages. Price $3.50.

Here is a story that combines romance and erudition and action and Southern tradition in equal parts to make a tale that will be enjoyed by those who like any or all of these ingredients.

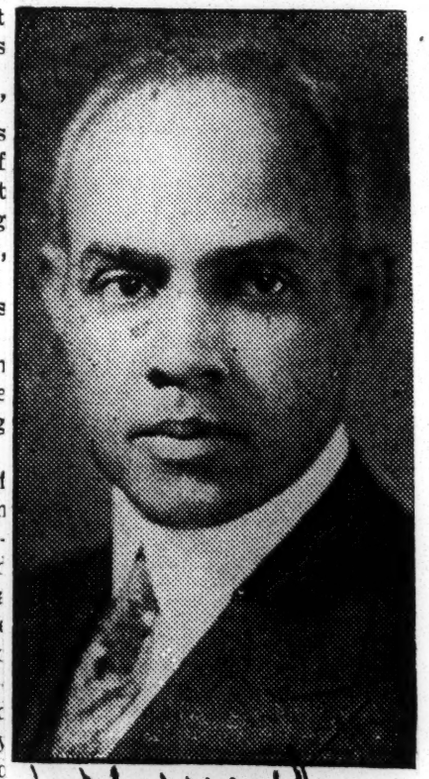
Michael Maxwell, author, world traveler and scion of an aristocratic Southern family returns to his ancestral home in the Cherokee Country in the heart of Dixie with the half-formed determination to rest and root himself firmly for life in its congenial soil. But there is little rest for him. At once he is plunged into a program of love-making, agricultural reform, and cleaning-up of mountaineer moonshiners which taxes all his energies.

Needless to say, right triumphs, but not before some chapters of action and suspense that move through a picture of the rural South of today where tradition still reigns in many things though modernity is startlingly evident in other phases of life.

An interesting angle is given the story by the author's pages on Indian lore, especially that of the Cherokees, and his conviction that such traditions form a unified philosophical and religious whole with the records of other lands such as Egypt Greece, Rome and even Palestine. The whole line of thought is developed in an interesting manner.

A playful touch is given the storry by the conception of the portraits of "Molly" and "Roger," Irish and Scotch ancestors of Maxwell, as guiding spirits in the plot, who eventually bring their descendant into possession of his rightful love.—G. R.

Develops Idea



DR. JOHN W. DAVIS
President of West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va. whose institution has just published a beautiful booklet of candid camera shots of the college illustrating campus life from "Reveille to Taps". A total of 98 picuters appears in the bulletin and Miles M. Jefferson was chairman of the pictorial committee (Calvin Service).

Handy's New Spirituals Are Just Published

NEW YORK (AP)—W. C. Handy's collection of 31 Negro Spirituals came off the press of Handy Brothers Music Co., 1587 Broadway, last Friday. The songs are arranged for mixed voices, male voices, and vocal solos with piano accompaniment. Although Mr. Handy's fame rests on his authorship of the "St. Louis Blues," he is known to be deeply religious, as this collection of spirituals shows.

BOOK REVIEW

By WM. FOWLKES, Jr.

NEGRO PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION by Jesse O Thomas. The Christopher Publishing Company, Boston. 154 Pages with a foreword by Emmett J. Scott of Howard University. Price $1.75.

Basing his reactions upon experience received at the Texas Centennial Exposition where he was general manager of the Hall of Negro Life building, Atlanta's Mr. Thomas says among other things that "Segregation of any kind based on race, or accident of birth is unscientific, unsound and prejudicial. For a long time, if not for an indefinite future, Negroes have got to decide what degree and kind of segregation they will cooperate with or capitalize upon for the moment."

Mr. Thomas makes this conclusion after citing the prejudices, indifferences and difficulties he and his staff experienced during the Texas celebration in 1936, together with the benefits he felt sure were accrued with the knowledge white people gained of their darker neighbors.

The book tells of the struggles both whites and colored had in getting the exposition set and completed, the history of Negroes in the Lone Star State, the entrance of the federal government into the picture of spending at Dallas, the hall itself, exhibits. Other chapters deal with the confusion of the Texas Negro (the group came to be possessed with many "misleading" opinions concerning the fair's operation, segregation, etc.); the ministers' attitude (not a few set themselves definitely against the exposition); inter-racial conflicts (there were natually jim-crow experiences in the matter of concessions, conveniences, etc. in Dixie Texas); the good influence of the Hall of Negro Life and race relations; conventions and special events; and the favorable comments of outstanding white and colored citizens and the press. One of the interesting chapters of the book deals with the "Mysterious Elimination of Negro Participation" in which it is referred the abandonment of the Hall of Negro Life after the first season. The Texas Exposition officials decided for some reason or the other that they would dismantle the Negro exhibits before the Pan-American Exposition, and the demolishing of the building, despite the many protests and suggestions of continuance received by officials.

The book is of inestimable value to future planners of large expositions and fairs and proves interesting reading material for students of inter-racial relations. It shows the studiousness of the writer who was "a favorite student of the late Booker T. Washington" and who carries forward a "banner of hope in the far deep South," according to prefacer Emmett Scott.

The book is illustrated with photos of the general building staff and views of the building and exhibits. It is written in true "Jesse O. Thomas" style.

Work Recognized

Robert E. Cureton, head of the social science department of Washington High School whose study of Negro history has been accepted for use in Atlanta's public schools

Southern Negroes As They Are

AUNT SARA'S WOODEN GOD, by Mercedes Gilbert; Christopher Publishing House, Boston, Mass. 271 pages. $2.00.

This is a first novel by a negro actress who was born in Jacksonville, Fla., and who had perhaps her most distinguished role as the wife of Moses in "The Green Pastures." This reviewer, at least, expresses here and now the wish that this novel will be followed by others equally good, for the author has much to offer.

She is a school of writers, happily growing larger, that has made the tremendous discovery that negroes are just folks, after all, and that, making allowance for differences in environment and tradition, they do not act so very differently in the crises of life from the white people among whom they live. This school of writers, which numbers both whites and negroes, tells the story of the negro without making him either a monster held in check by noble white hardihood, or a noble Tolstoian figure of suffering perfection.

In the same way the white people who come into her book are neither prettified casts from the "Old Massa" model, but actual people such as Montgomerians know and meet every day—such as Montgomerians are.

She presents the problem of the negro indirectly but only as the background to the more vital individual problem that is the main theme of the novel.

For Aunt Sara's "Wooden God" is not an idol but a darkly handsome brilliant intelligent mulatto boy whose rough road through life is made rougher by his own conceit, lust and indolence, who suffers the frequent fate of the mulatto in being viewed with some degree of hostility by both whites and by darker colored folks, and who yet through it all remains a hero to his doting mother.

It is the problem of William, the mulatto, his dark brother Jim, Ruth, whom they both love, that will entrance the reader. It is a moving, human story that in itself is a better bid for friendliness between the races than any surcharged indignant volume full of lynchings and lusts or any highly expurgated and discreetly retouched idyll of happy black children in Dixie.—J. H. H.

Cureton's Study To Be Used In School System

According to official announcements, a workbook, for Atlanta Public Schools to be used in connection with the study of Negro history, has been prepared by Robert E. Cureton, head of the Social Science department of Booker T. Washington high school.

Sets of these workbooks have been sent to all Atlanta public schools in which Negro history is taught.

The book consists of information on and study sheets for the following topics, The African Background, The Negro in the American Colonies, The Period of Reaction, The Rise of the Abolition Movement, The Civil War and Reconstruction and Achievements of the Negro since 1876.

The author, whose work was highly endorsed by the Board of Education and whose book has a Foreward, written by Dr. H. Reid Hunter, Assistant Superintendent in charge of High schools, is a graduate of Clark and Atlanta universities. He received his M. A. degree in History from the latter last summer.

HEAD-HUNTERS

PHILIPPINE PAGANS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF THREE IFUGAOS. By R. F. Barton. Routledge. Pp. xvii. 271. 15s.

Mr. Barton's three Ifugao autobiographies make lively, if decidedly unconventional, reading. They were taken down by the author in the course of an investigation of the culture of the Ifugao people, pagans living in the mountainous regions of Luzon, the northernmost island of the Philippine Archipelago. The economy of Ifugao life is based mainly, but not exclusively, on the cultivation of rice. Their most characteristic institutions are head-hunting and the blood-feud, the taking of omens by inspection of the gall-bladder of a sacrificed chicken, which regulates every important action in life, and the "bachelor" house, the custom whereby the unmarried of both sexes sleep in dormitories apart from the family. Each of these institutions involves an outlook which it is difficult for the white man to appreciate fully, as is indicated by an example which Mr. Barton quotes from his own experience.

Of the autobiographers two were men and one was a woman, and the autobiographies make an illuminating contribution to the study of primitive psychology. E. N. F.

True Picture of Life In South Today Depicted In New Novel

"The Back Door" Described As Commendable

By LOU LAYNE

THE BACK DOOR, a novel by Julian R. Meade, 310 pp. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., $2.50.

Insight, sympathy and undertaking of the problems of the South have produced a remarkable volume in Julian R. Meade's "The Back Door," a novel just released by Longmans, Green and Company.

In treating the love story of Mary Lou Payton and Junie Gunn, the author has deeply etched a lasting picture of every-day conditions facing the Negro below the Mason-Dixon line.

Back-door folk are depicted as those in domestic service for the whites, or as unskilled "hands" in tobacco factories. Their problems are struggles engendered by suppression, repression, and oppression. Obtaining even the bare necessities of existence becomes a task of gigantic proportions.

The author has reproduced this picture with that forcefulness of style delivered only through the conviction of simple prose.

MEAGRE EARNINGS LAST

Junie, who works as a handyman in a tobacco factory, and Mary Lou, whose "love is not one-time thing," are looking forward to an early marriage. Practically forced into doing so, Mary Lou quits her five-dollar-a-week job as cook for the hateful Mrs. Pugh. The loss of Mary Lou's meager weekly earnings is the first of a series of setbacks preventing the couple's saving of enough money for the wedding.

Local police "raid" a harmless party the lovers attend, and Junie's scant savings disappear in the payment of his fine. Even after the happy event does take place (thru the benevolence of the son of Mary Lou's new employer), ominous [illegible] overshadow their

Scholarly Study of U. S. Negro's Ancestral Home

BY PERCY WOOD.

"Dahomey, an Ancient West African Kingdom," by Melville J. Herskovits. [J. J. Augustin, two vols., $12.]

His studies of the dark peoples now brings Dr. Melville J. Herskovits, professor of anthropology at Northwestern university, to an exhaustive consideration of Dahomey, whence came the ancestors of the American Negro.

In enslaving for the colonies the traders brought cargo after cargo of Negroes from the little kingdom beneath the bulge of Africa's western coastline to the plantations in the new world. Much of Dahomey's early history comes from the notes made by these slaving captains.

Having already written in great detail of the American Negro, the Haitian peasant, and the bush Negroes of Dutch Guiana, Dr. Herskovits, with his wife, lived for six months in 1931 in Dahomey. They spent most of their research period in Abomay.

Their home was near the market place and a well, so to their door came chiefs and commoners, descendants of slaves, priests, laymen, artisans, and diviners. The Herskovitses attended the native ceremonies, dances, and rites which have changed little with the centuries. As their friendship with the natives grew, so increased their notes.

The picture Prof. Herskovits draws of Dahomey today, interpreted in terms of its fascinating past, is an absorbing one, although the layman cannot hope fully to appreciate its scientific import. But despite the fact that "Dahomey" was written as a learned report on a little known part of the world, essentially for a learned audience, the anthropologically uninitiated will find it of interest.

Bibliography — 1938

Book Review

REVIEWED by Dr. John Clarence Wright, pastor First Congregational church, Atlanta, Ga.

"A PIONEER OF YOUTH" — A biography of William Alphaeus Hunton by Addie Waites Hunton.

A notable contribution to the celebration this year of fifty years of work by the Young Men's Christian Association of America for colored men and boys, is the biography of the man who more than any other was responsible for the broad and deep foundations upon which the magnificent superstructure of enduring achievement rests.

It is most fitting that the story of his life should have been written by the one who through all of the years of his struggle was his constant, understanding and loyal companion. In writing the life of William Alphaeus Hunton, Addie Waites Hunton has given to the race and to the world the portrait of one of nature's real noblemen painted with all the delicacy and the boldness of an artist skilled in technique and fired by a flaming love and enthusiasm for her subject.

She has in her book mastered the difficult task of impersonally appraising the work of the man whom she adored not only as her husband, but as a person who had become for her the embodiment of her highest ideals in human living. Her moving story of her husband's, at time heartbreaking struggle, to bring to the boys and men of his race the fullest benefits of one of the greatest religious and social movements of the 19th century, is more than a biography, it is an idyl of conjugal love and domestic happiness which might prove a revelation to many of the other race who wonder what the home life of the cultivated American Negro is like.

Moreover, if during these semi-centennial days there are those who want to review, or delve for the first time into the history of the Colored Men's Department of the Young Men's Christian Association, no more reliable, accurate, scholarly, or thoroughly readable source book could be found than this work from the pen of Addie Hunton. Beginning with the association set-up in Norfolk, Virginia, with Mr. Hunton as the first Negro general secretary, the progress and vicissitudes of the movement are traced down to the glorious heritage of student work and city associations left by this pioneer, when weary but triumphant he lay down to rest after twenty-six years of work, the glory of which, is just now being revealed.

SLAVE PARENTS

Born of slave parents on Canadian soil, Mr. Hunton's was a rare and peculiar heritage for the mission which was to be his. Deeply religious by temperament and inheritance, he early showed signs of the moral leadership which was to build an empire of the spirit in the lives of thousands of black American Youths.

Born and bred in the free and cultured atmosphere and environment of a Canadian metropolis, he did not hesitate to enter the South with its social proscriptions and soul-searing discriminations. With consummate tact and Christian grace he met the insults, the trials, and the problems which were bound to be the lot of one entering upon such a mission as his in the heart of the South. How truly complete was his triumph over the unfavorable conditions which surrounded him on every side in his work in the Southern colleges was evidenced by the esteem in which he was held by all of his fellow secretaries both North and South. In the great Student conferences of the YMCA and the World's Student Christian Federation, he was literally, for a quarter of a century, an ambassador at large for the Negro race. With dignity and grace and convincingness his voice was raised for his people in Japan, in Sweden, England and wherever his wider travels in the interest of the great Association movement took him. With the finesse of the artist she is, Mrs. Hunton has let the life of her distinguished husband tell its own story.

RARE GEMS

Every chapter is generously studded with rare gems of description, humor and philosophy from his correspondence and speeches. Thus through written and spoken words something of the soul of this rare leader of men is mirrored. If ever it could be said of any man, it can be truly said of William Alphaeus Hunton that he was a "Maker of Men". Few have been privileged to be trusted and revered as he was by the students of our Colored colleges in the South.

His gentleness, his magnetic personality, his genuine love and reverence for the things of the spirit, his inspiring leadership in the study of God's Word, made his visits on the campuses of our institutions a benediction to the students and a source of inestimable help to the faculties. So great was his influence with students and his keen understanding of the problems of college administration that many have said of him that he could have made one of the most outstanding educators of his day had he chosen to enter that field.

Of particular interest to Atlantans is the fact that for eight years he made this city his home. The first Negro Student Conference was set up by him in this city in the face of obstacles and difficulties which his biographer believes was the beginning of the undermining of his health. Much of his great planning for the Colored Men's Department was done at the Butler Street Branch. Another reason, this, that our branch should be one of the most loyally and liberally supported in the country.

In the words of Frank K. Sanders, part of whose memorial address on William Alphaeus Hunton is published in the Biography, "We cannot but Rejoice in the Life of our Brother." "He did his work well. Our memorial to him will be, not new Associations, not even new buildings, but our sincere dedication to the great unfinished tasks, social, religious, and racial, to which he gladly gave of his life."

I end, as I began, this review by saying that Addie Waites Hunton has made a real contribution to American Biography in the sympathetic and beautiful portrayal of a truly great soul she has given us in "William Alphaeus Hunton... A Pioneer Prophet of Young Men." It should be one of the "musts" on your season's list of books.

Zora Neale Hurston Completes "Ask My Horse"

Atlanta Daily World 10-1-38

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Miss Zora Neale Hurston, world's famous novelist and authority on Negro Folklore, will have her latest book, "Ask My Horse," dealing with voodooism in Haiti, published next month. Other books written by Miss Hurston are "Jonah's Gourd Vine," "Mules and Men," and "They Lifted Their Eyes to God."

Miss Hurston because of her special work in anthropology has been granted several fellowships: one from Rosenwald and from the Guggenheim Foundation for study in Haiti. She is a member of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority being affiliated with Pi Zeta chapter of New York City.

Book By Mercedes Gilbert A Seller

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—Mercedes Gilbert, who has starred in various Broadway productions, including "The Green Pastures," is author of a book, "Aunt Sara's Wooden God," that may become one of the race's best sellers. Critics interviewing the book have been free in their praise of the book released by Christopher publishing, an old New England house.

The book deals with Southern life and tells the true and strange story of happenings below the Mason-Dixon line. The story itself describes Aunt Sara as one of those mothers who make love of one child and flesh of another, and tries so hard to guide the destiny of their children that they make of them spineless weaklings. There is included the usual mulatto in this case favored by the mother, who is Aunt Sara's wooden God. The book is one of those rare accomplishments, interestingly told as only a Race author can do.

The author, an actress, was born in Jacksonville, Fla., and graduated from Edward Waters college. When quite young Miss Gilbert showed a love for writing and startled relatives and friends by composing poems at the age of six. Later she entered nurses school from which she was graduated.

Miss Gilbert has done considerable work in radio, both as an announcer and performer. In all of her radio work she has written her own sketches. She has also authored several short stories.

New Book Answers Question, 'Negroes Or Colored'. Folk

Baltimore Afro-American 10-1-38

NEW YORK.—(C)—An answer to the perplexing query, "Are We Negroes or Colored People?" is contained in the 399-page new book, "Human Side of a People," by Raphael P. Powell, and published by the Philemon Company, 224 W. 135th street. Mr. Powell was educated in Central highschool, Boston, and in law at Boston university law school. He has been twelve years writing the book, which is replete with numerous illustrations and is filled with a mass of educational material and current data on Negro life and history.

Heralded as a "new philosophy in education," the book abounds in "history, biography, logic; philosophy for thinkers and sociology for social workers." The foreword is by Dr. Willis N. Huggins of the New York City highschool system, in which he says: "Mr. Powell is on the right track in running down the word 'Negro,' for he sees that just as the word 'Aryan' has come to plague western Europe today, so will the world 'Negro' rise in the future as a plague to America and the western world." The book has twelve chapters and 84 illustrations, including photographs of such notables as Marcus Garvey Mme. C. J. Walker, Dr. George W. Carver, Booker T. Washington, Haile Selassie, C. C. Spaulding, A. A. Schomburg, John B. Russwurm, J. A. Rogers, Alexander Pushkin, Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Alexander Dumas, Toussaint L'Overture, King Tutankhamen, and Hannibal.

Jas. Weldon Johnson's Records Go On Sale

Two records which will keep alive the voice of James Weldon Johnson for posterity went on sale last week, it was announced by officials of the N. A. A. C. P.

Recordings have been made of four readings by the famed poet made before his death last June 26 and include his "The Creation," "Go Down Death," "The Prodigal Son" and "Listen, Lord—A Prayer." The album containing the records may be ordered from The Crisis, 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y.

Anniston, Ala. Star
October 7, 1938

Verse By Anniston Colored Writers Published In Book

Four poems by Vesta E. Stephens, colored teacher in Anniston, are included in "The Brown Thrush," an anthology of Negro student verse published by the Malcolm Press of Memphis. In addition there are three poems by Louise Moses of Anniston, a graduate of Talladega College.

The Stephens contributions are "Aminds," "Aunt Liza," "Jennie" and "Autumn Leaves—Roundel." Those by Louise Moses are "Passing," "Night Gossip" and "Explanation."

The anthology was published, according to a foreword, "to encourage Negro student writers of verse in their endeavor in this medium of art." Demand for the first volume was so great, it was reported, that other volumes have been issued.

Vesta Stephens has written children's stories and plays, which have been produced in her school here. She graduated at Talladega College.

Writing Book On Negro And His Literature

MARSHALL, Tex., Oct. 20 — Prof. Bertram Lewis, member of the English department of Wiley College, is engaged in writing a book which deals with the Negro and his contribution to literature.

The book, "Critical Anthology of Negro Literature," will be released in the near future.

Anthology Of Negro Poetry To Be Published Nov. 21

NEW YORK —(ANP)— Henry Harrison, poetry publisher has announced that "Negro Voices", an anthology of contemporary verse, will be published on Nov. 21. This book, edited by Beatrice M. Murphy, and illustrated by Clifton Thompson Hill, both of Washington, contains 204 poems by 83 poets representing 22 states, the District of Columbia and England.

Miss Murphy reports that poems were submitted by 179 poets from 30 states and from far away as Ireland. Washington, D. C., leads in the number of contributors to the anthology with 16. New York State is second with 11 poets and Louisiana third with 10. California is represented by 9. Illinois by 6, Ohio 4; Georgia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Texas by 3 each; Michigan, Missouri and Virginia by 2 each; and Mississippi, Maryland, Alabama, Arizona, New Jersey, Nebraska, Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia and England by 1 each.

"Negro Voices," dedicated to the memory of James Weldon Johnson, includes many poems which originally appeared in various publications, among them the Amsterdam News, Birmingham Age-Herald, Carolina Magazine, Fantasy, Kansas Magazine, Louisiana Weekly, Opportunity, Palms, Crisis, Christian Recorder and the Washington Tribune.

"Since the appearance of Countee Cullen's 'Caroling Dusk" in 1927," writes Miss Murphy in her foreword to this anthology, "no significent collection of Negro poetry has appeared. It is timely, therefore, to bring the status of the Negro in the field of poetry up to date. Then, too, all previous anthologies of Negro poetry have been curiously alike. We know exactly what names would be found inside. This book serves two purposes: it gives the reader new poems by his old favorites, and presents a number of new poets.

"The role of the Negro writer is a difficult one. Only in exceptional cases does he find a guiding hand to help him reach the heights. For the most part his efforts are met by a callous indifference. The mediums for publication within his own group are almost nil. I think this book gives irrefutable evidence that the Negro is singing even more lustily than before. If this anthology goes no further than to convince the American public of the great potentialities within our race, and that the Negro is continuing to make his contribution to American culture, then it has been well worth the effort."

Among the better known poets whose new work is included in "Negro Voices" are Langston Hughes, Frank Marshall Davis, Alpheus Butler, Lucia Mae Pitts, and Lucy Mae Turner, whose new book of poems, "'Bout Cullud Folksies," has just been published by Henry Harrison.

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Because Mr. Harrison believes that "Negro Voices" merits wide distribution, he has ignored the customary method of pricing books which might have placed this one out of the reach of many, and will list the anthology's retail price at only $1.50.

Couldn't Preach, So Minister Writes AME Who's Who

YOUNGSTOWN, Nov. 10—(ANP)—A "Who's Who in the AME Church" will adorn many a church-goer's book shelf soon just because a tireless Reverend couldn't land a preaching portion. Lately the Rev. L. C. Miller has begun the tedious work of compiling the information for his Who's Who in the AME Church and not to be cut down by critics, the 57-year-old Pitt university grad, plans to tour the entire country interviewing present pastors and discovering interesting facts in order to make his book a best seller.

Rev. Miller's itinerary will include an extensive visit of the southland followed by a trip to the west coast. From there he will cross the states once more from the northern route and head into the New England section.

It was the death of Bishop Heard that closed the door to the Reverend's ambition, but despite the many trite obstacles, the clergyman would not give up. Rev. Miller wanted a church post and thwarted, would try that much harder to win a position. If his book is a success, he might get that longed-for opportunity.

Bibliography — 1938

The Race and Social Planning

"It is important that Negroes assume the obligation of contributing to a social plan of well being for all American citizens," says T. Arnold Hill, director of the Department of Industrial Relations of the National Urban League, in "The Negro and Economic Reconstruction," a booklet published recently by the Associates in Negro Folk Education, Washington, D. C.

"Minorities must contend continuously for rights and privileges—not only because these will come no other way; but also because their attainment is necessary for the fulfillment of the democratic ideal."

"The Negro's disillusioning exposure to American duplicity provides him occasion for discontent. The industrial upheavals of the past few years must have convinced him that he cannot remain aloof from national affairs. He certainly must be aware of the forces at work for progressive social action.

"He must know that his mental and material possessions, though limited, are a great source of strength. With an experience rich in human waste, a cause justly deserving recognition, a social system of incalculable disadvantage to racial prestige, a society of fast-moving change, a minority with limitless potentialities, and a history replete with matchless service and dauntless effort, the Negro of the Twentieth Century has ample incentive to press forward to a future of wider experience and power."

HISTORY OF WORKER

Mr. Hill outlines, in the booklet, the history of the Negro workers in the United States in relation to the economic detvelopment of the country. The early experiences of Negro workers are set forth briefly to provide background and perspective for the current setting of today's labor and economic problems.

A fatal blunder of the early frontier days, he says, was the opposition of poor whites to the occupancy of the west by Negroes, because in so doing the poor whites played into the hands of the planters, who wanted to solidify racial barriers in order to keep a constant supply of black workers.

"Had the poor whites possessed vision to unite their forces with those of the Negro slave, whose readiness to flee from slavery and fight for freedom with his blood had often been proved, slavery would have been conquered and many of the stirring events of that period, including the Civil War, might not have occurred. Unification of the working class over against the slave-owning oligarchy would have given the laboring classes a nine-to-one advantage. Conservative and liberal labor unions so disregarded this advantage that by the time of the Civil War what we now know as race prejudice had become not only an effective instrument for the perpetuation of the slave system but had bred a feud between white and black labor."

WORKERS INSECURE

Of today, Mr. Hill says that "Negro workers are insecure and will remain insecure as long as individuals in positions to change habits and morals remain adamant and afraid. Private industry and Government employment are both in the hands of persons to whom democracy is a shibboleth and not a course of action."

As methods of correcting some of the most flagrant economic injustices against the Negro, Mr. Hill advocates mass protest, both for publicizing discrimination and for extending employment opportunities, a further union with organized labor, a wider educational development both for Negroes and for white persons, and an extended program of vocational guidance for Negro youth.

"The necessity for knowledge and action in economic endeavor was never more clearly demonstrated," he concludes. "The demands of labor parties in other parts of the world foretell a strong labor movement in the United States. Our nation, which has made rapid strides in social security legislation, is still far behind the social progress of many other countries; but it must and will make further advances in all welfare fields. The Negro must not only be cognizant of all this, but he must also support and be active in progressive movements."

Mercedes Gilbert, Actress, Releases Her First Novel

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—New variations of an old theme, the desire to escape from racial and economic oppression, appears in "Aunt Sara's Wooden God," the first novel from the pen of Mercedes Gilbert, with a foreword by Langston Hughes, released this month.

Miss Gilbert starred in Hughes' long-run Broadway drama, "Mulatto" and also created the role of the wife of Moses in "The Green Pastures" during the entire life of that play. She is currently the author and principal character of the radio sketch, "Ma Johnson's Rooming House," heard every Thursday afternoon over station WMCA.

According to author Hughes, "'Aunt Sara's Wooden God' is an authentic everyday story of thousands of little families below the Mason-Dixon Line, bound to the soil by poverty and blackness, but living their enclosed lives always in the hope that some day some of them may escape the family group and go on to higher things."

Firm Asks Dunbar To Write A Book

LONDON—(ANP)—Rudolph Dunbar has been commanded by Dallas & Sons, Ltd., one of the best music publishing firms and instrument dealers in England, to write a text book on clarinet playing. Dunbar was considered the only man capable of writing a textbook of this nature for he is technical expert to The Melody Maker, British music magazine.

A feature of the book is that the philosophy of the study of the clarinet, which is based on system, will be thoroughly expounded. The exercises will be divided into sections or groups in order to establish the system of study. Dunbar's theory is that all work should be systematic, especially where the beginner is concerned.

Says Dunbar: "It is the only way to ensure economy of time and labor. There are a great number of instrument books written with elaborate details for the clarinet. Some of them are absolutely futile in their construction, the matter in others is presented as if the student's mind were on object in itself, independent of thought."

Students have come from as far as Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland and Africa to study at Rudolph Dunbar's School of Modern Clarinet Playing in London.

Dunbar is sailing on the French liner "Normandie" on October 5 for America, in order to give a lecture tour.

Zora Hurston Writes "Ask My Horse"

NEW YORK, (ANP)—Miss Zora Neale Hurston, world's famous novelist and authority on Negro Folklore will have her latest book "Ask My Horse," dealing with voodooism in Haiti, published next month. Other books written by Miss Hurston are "Jonah's Gourd Vine," "Mules and Men" and "They Lifted Their Eyes to God."

New Novel Portrays Life In The South

"THE BACK DOOR," a novel by Julius R. Meade. 310 pages. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., $2.50.

By LOU LAYNE

Insight, sympathy and understanding of the problems of the South have produced a remarkable volume in Julian R. Meade's "The Back Door," a novel just released by Longmans, Green and Company.

In treating the love story of Mary Lou Payton and Junie Gunn, the author has deeply etched a lasting picture of everyday conditions facing the Negro in the South.

Back-door people are those below the Mason-Dixon line who serve the whites, either as domestics or as unskilled "hands" in tobacco factories. Their problems are struggles engendered by suppression and oppression. Obtaining the bare necessities of their existence becomes a task of gigantic proportions.

The author has reproduced this picture with that forcefulness of style accomplished only by the conviction of simple prose.

Junie and Mary Lou, whose "love is no one-time thing," are looking forward to an early marriage. Practically forced into doing so, Mary Lou quits her five-dollar-a-week job as cook for the hateful Mrs. Pugh, whose name adequttely describes her. The loss of Mary Lou's meager weekly earnings is the first of a series of events which prevent the couple's saving enough money for the wedding.

Local police "raid" a harmless party the lovers attend, and Junie's scant savings disappear in the payment of his fine. Even after the happy event does take place (through the benevolence of the son of Mary Lou's employer), ominous clouds of disaster overshadow their lives. Junie's health is endangered, and Mary Lou is consantly menaced by the unwilling attentions of a handsome but designing young white man.

The novel is a literary sonata in the conventional three movements. The only adverse criticism of the author's otherwise superb treatment of his subject matter is that the adagio movement tends to drag. Meade's sincere sympathy is recurrently evident in such delightfully ironical phrases as "the fine new theatre that had no seats for Negroes." It may not be too far-fetched to see in the character of Warner Carey a self-portrait of the author.

The complete handling of the story shows unusual intelligence that amazes the reader, and makes him want to take the characters to his heart. One of the book's best selling points is its sense of modernity—of being a story written today about today. We appreciate this in reading of the shagging and trucking of Mozelle, a flighty miss with few, if any, scruples; and we smile at the thought of the Joe Louis fan on the mantelpiece of Rev. Hawks.

Despite a somewhat sober theme the book is not without its lighter passages. One can hardly suppress a chuckle when Mary Lou's employer, Mrs. Carey, tells her son, Warner, "I haven't had fleas in the house since your father died."

"The Back Door" is a commendable task exceptionally well done. Mary Lou and Junie will undoubtedly be welcomed into that exclusive corner of American literature now occupied only by Porgy and Bess.

Books Briefly Reviewed

"The Words of the King" (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.).—Mr. T. Darbyshire has made a selection from the speeches of King George VI since his first public address on March 17, 1916. All have been approved by His Majesty and they have much historical interest. The only speech recorded on his East African tour was that during which he conferred the K.C.M.G. on the Kabaka of Buganda; but references to that tour are to be found elsewhere in the book, in which the King's appreciation of Kenya is manifest.

"Pity of the World," by Elinor Mordaunt (Joseph, 7s. 6d.).—An interesting novel, made the more acceptable by the authoress's modest disclaimer that, in spite of four long visits, she does not yet know enough of Kenya to write about it except as fiction. In Sally she has created a strong, original and appealing character, whose frankness is entirely natural; in the little brother, a figure almost too pathetic; while the relations between father, mother, children and the Natives are developed and described with unusual skill.

"Renascent Africa," by Xnamdi Azikiwe, M.A., M.Sc. (published by the author at Zik's Press, Accra, Gold Coast, 12s. 6d.).—This book deserves a warm welcome and close study, for it is by such works that the African reveals his mentality and outlook on the modern world, and that the European can form a judgment of him. Mr. Azikiwe is a scholar, and hails from a Colony where the Negro has a freedom of life and speech unrivalled anywhere else except in the British West Indies; so his writings must be taken seriously. He puts forward claims, quoting references to English authorities, that Africans discovered iron; initiated the conception of one God; ruled the world from 763 to 713 B.C.; had a great civilisation on the banks of the Niger; and that "while Oxford and Cambridge were in their inchoate stages the University of Sankore in Timbuctoo welcomed 'scholars and learned men from all over the Moslem world.'" A provocative challenge to Europeans, indeed. Whether the author's talent and scholarship live up to these claims can be determined by the evidence of his own book, on reading it.

PERSIMMON CREEK. By Nellie Page Carter. Longmans, Green. $2.00.

"Troubles is seasoning," says Uncle Billy, "and people is jest like persimmons. They ain't good till they's frost bit." A book with a charming plot of two little negroes who go to stay with their grandmother in the country and the brother, Jeff, feels he must support his little sister, Princess. Feeling a mule will solve all of his financial ills, Jeff sets out to earn enough money to buy a good, lively mule. Built around negro folk songs, and atmosphere, the book will intrigue the young reader and amuse the older.

Dillard Professors Publish Syllabi

DR. C. T. MASON

DR. C. W. BUGGS

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(SNS)—The publication this fall of two syllabi by members of Dillard University's Division of the Sciences was announced by University officials last week. Dr. Charles Wesley Buggs, head of the Division and Professor of Biology, edited and had published the notes and laboratory outlines which he has used in mimeographed form for the past two years. The syllabus by Dr. Clarence T. Mason, associate professor of Chemistry is a revision of a similar work published in January, 1937 and is to be used in the Science Survey course. Dr. Buggs syllabus will be used in the General Biology course.

A graduate of Morehouse College, Dr. Buggs received his Master of Science degree and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Minnesota. He is the co-author of several articles on infectious diseases the latest of which, Experimental Investigation in Hemorrhagic Enchephalitis, appeared in the May-June issue of the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Mason is a graduate of Northwestern University with the Bachelor of Science degree and holds the Master of Science degree and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Results of his research have been published in the Canadian Journal of Research.

Both men are members of Sigma Xi and Dr. Mason is a member of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Buggs recently received a grant from Sigma Xi to carry on research in problems dealing with the biochemistry and physiology of medusae.

WHITES FEATURE DOCTOR'S BOOK

New York—(C)—Three big white book stores, Brentano's, Putnam's, and Wanamaker's, have taken a consignment of the new book, "The Story of Womanhood," by Dr. Joseph Wellington, 1921 Seventh Avenue. The booklet, the text of which was first delivered as an address before the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, was sponsored by the Booklovers Club of New York, Mrs. Nannie C. Burden, president.

UNDESIRABLE BOOK

German Educationists Put Ban On Uncle Tom's Cabin

BERLIN—(AP)—"Uncle Tom's Cabin" is not a suitable book for German schoolboys to read, in the opinion of present-day Nazi educationists.

In the course of a "Book Week" held a week ago, various Nazi leaders, from Propaganda Minister Joseph Paul Goebbels down, have been telling the people for their own good what books they should read, and what avoid.

Education Counselor Hans Meinshausen, addressing a Hitler youth gathering, said that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was not a desirable book, "because it runs counter to our racial ideals." He did not explain in what way.

Approved books are almost exclusively confined to stories of heroic German episodes in the World War and about the rise of the Nazi party.

DR. HORN WRITES BOOK ON MATHEMATICS

NASHVILLE—(ANP)—A Preface to Mathematics by Dr. Clarence E. Van Horn of Fisk University has just come from the press of Chapman and Grimes, Inc., of Boston. Concerning it the Journal of Education said, 'It is designed to enrich the backgrounds of the mathematician with much philosophy and lore which finds no place in the more formal texts on the separate branches of the science. The book should prove a valuable contribution to great teaching."

"True Story" Publishes Story On Roland Hayes

NEW YORK—(C)—A short autobiographical story of Roland Hayes appears in the November issue of "True Story", 205 E. 42nd Street, Bernarr MacFadden, publisher. In the editor's note it is stated that Mr. Hayes is one of the most highly paid artists in the history of American music.

Bibliography - 1938

Author Educated At Columbia University

By VALDEMAN HILL

Although J. Antonio Jarvis has recently completed a "Brief History of the Virgin Islands" which is the most up-to-date and compact history of the Virgin Islands yet written, he can not be called an historian. 6-17-38

In fact Jarvis can hardly be called anything in particular, except an outstanding Virgin Islander. During his thirty-six years he has expended his unbounding energy in many fields. One moment he is capturing the Second Award in an Art contest of Opportunity Magazine; the next thing we know he is shaking hands with President Roosevelt or sipping cocktails with Miss Edna St. Vincent Millay; or publishing a book of poems; or painting water colors which the late John van Dyke found "charming and vibrant with color."

J. ANTONIIO JARVIS

Antonio Jarvis was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on November 22, 1901. His father is Joseph W. Jarvis, A. M., D. D., an official of the African Methodist Episcopalian Church in Pennsylvania. Jarvis was educated in the Virgin Islands, although he attended De Witt Clinton High School, and took Art and Journalism courses at Columbia University Summer School. He now has his Bachelor of Arts Degree; and is a teacher of Social Studies at Charlotte Amalie High School.

Was Newspaperman

From sixteen Jarvis showed his ability to write by publishing many articles in newspapers and magazines in the United States. He was for many years a news correspondent and has written special articles for the Philadelphia Record, the Herald Tribune, and the New York Times. He has also published articles in the Brooklyn Eagle, The News, Opportunity, Abbott's Monthly, Virginia Leader, and The Crisis. In 1931 his "Jubilee Hall" a Virgin Island short story was mentioned by O'Brien of the "Best Short Stories" for that year. The story was published in Opportunity Magazine.

The two outstanding features of Jarvis are his unbounding energy and his versatile talent. His thirty-six yeahs have been crowded with creative work and other accomplishments that are entirely unrelated.. He is now Treasurer of the St. Thomas Library Commission, President of the Bureau of Information for the Virgin Island, Vice President of the St. Thomas Teachers' Association, sponsor of the Quill and Scroll Society, the Alexander Pushkin Club, and The Reflector (a high school newspaper). In 1930 he founded The Daily News, a new type of liberal newspaper for the Virgin Islands. He was warned by intelligent and experienced friends not to start another newspaper in Charlotte Amalie, for the three that had been already established were more than enough. However, he went right ahead—and today The Daily News is the most outstanding paper in the entire Virgin Islands. In 1936 he founded the Virgin Island Magazine to advertise the charms of the islands. The Winter 1937-38 issue ran to more than 25,000 copies.

In between he found time to write verse and collect it in two books: "Fruits in Passing" and "Bamboula Dance". He has also written a very interesting description of the Virgin Islands mainly for tourists, entitled "The Three Islands". The distinctive pen and ink drawings included in this book are also children of his versatile creative brain.

Shows World Conditions

For many years Jarvis has been thinking of writing a history of the Virgin Islands which would be different from those already written. Instead of enumerating events restricted mainly to the Danish West Indies, transferred to the United States in 1917 as the Virgin Islands, he wanted to show the effect of world conditions on the Islands, show their economic and social development and at the same time include all the historical events of importance and interest in their right places. Slowly the plan evolved from his energetic brain until it shaped into the "Brief History of the Virgin Islands" which will soon be off the press.

A few excerpts will give the style in which the book is written: "When the Nineteenth Century opened, a casual observer of the Danish West Indies would have said that this part of the Carribbean was destined to enjoy a hundred years more of increasing activity; but changes were already in the air, although they could not be seen. So interdependent are the countries of the world, that it is necessary to look into the affairs of France and England to find some of the early causes of change in the Caribbean Sea.

Speaks of William Pitt

"First of all, a young Cambridge graduate named Clarkson began work on an essay against slavery in 1783; and he was so upset by his findings that he decided to devote his life to fighting the slave trade. He did spend many years writing and lecturing upon its horrors. Wilberforce, who was a friend of the great English Prime Ministre, William Pitt, advocated abolition in the House of Commons . . The idea that slavery was odious spread over Europe, especially among those who could look objectively at a trade in which they were not engaged. The King of Denmark had early felt that it was no longer respectable to buy and sell human beings, and he expressed himself as being against that business. News travelled slowly, and the planters of the Danish West Indies were only too willing to discount any such unpleasant gossip as the probable abolition of both slavery and slave trading. . .

"While the Danes were fighting against England, the Danish West Indies were suffering from the English blockade. In fact, the British ship of war Arab was demanding the surrender of St. Thomas and keeping commerce away. As much to relieve the anxieties of the inhabitants, as to cease a futile resistance, the island capitulated April 1, 1801. Colonel Cowell and a detachment took St. Thomas and fortified the entrance to the harbor. A fort was built and guns mounted to command the water for a considerable distance. Cowells battery, the Signal Station, is still in existence, although now it is used as a look-out for ships."

Writes for Daily News

Although the history runs to around three hundred fifty pages, and called for a great deal of dictating and research work, yet Jarvis found time to pursue his recreational activities. He did not give up playing the violin or swimming in the invigorating waters of Lindbergh Bay. Nor did it dull his interest in other things, for he still wrote the editorials for The Daily News, taught six classes at school for five days a week; supervised the Art Shop-Publishers; did social work; and found time to experiment with many recipes for making cake. When a cake comes out of the oven without any burns on the bottom, and with a rich flavor he is so elated that he has to let his friends eat all; much to his gastronomic displeasure.

Jarvis has met quite a few celebrities during his short span of life. At formal receptions at Government House, Charlotte Amalie, he has met President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh who autograped a portrait painted by Jarvis which now belongs to the St. Thomas Public Library. He is a friend of Dr. James H. Dillard, met Mrs. Amy Spingarn and Miss Harmon, read John van Dyke's unpublished book and received his praise for water color work. He has met and spoken to Tugwell, Taussig, and many University presidents, and authors. An afternoon spent with Miss Edna St. Vincent Millay discussing poetry over cocktails is among his memories. She commended him for his verse, and gave him an autographed copy of "Wines from These Grapes."

His art work has been exhibited at the New York Public Library in 1928-1929; with the Harmon Foundation in 1933; at the New York's National Art Exhibit of 1936, also at Grand Central; he has held Virgin Island Art Exhibits; and was listed in Outstanding Negro Artists by the Harmon Foundation. He is also the painter of pictures that were presented to the Roosevelts by St. Thomas. Yet he has done such commercial art as designing magazine covers, the St. Thomas Lottery Ticket, and many posters for various purposes. However, he is modest enough to hope that someday he will find time to catch the "bright colors of the Virgin Islands in a series of water colors."

Has Painted Portraits

For 1938 he has already painted several portraits, sold "Sleeping Boy" a study made in Puerto Rico, opened a Photo-Art Gallery on Main Street, did frontispiece for his "'Brief History of the Virgin Islands", and has been commissioned to paint murals at Bluebeard's Castle Hotel. Recently he was principal speaker at Graduation exercises at Nisky School and at Abraham Lincoln. He is also serving on the Executive Committee of the Jesqui-Centennial Constitution Celebration Commission of the Virgin Islands (1937-1939).

Several hundred copies of "Brief History of the Virgin Islands" have been sold in advance of publication, and the list of patrons include Governor Cramer, Mrs. Roosevelt, Sir Gordon Letham, Drew Pearson, etc.

While getting the history in shape, Jarvis would dictate for an hour or two to two tired stenographers, dismiss them with a smile and at once get interested in mixing the batter for a new kind of sponge cake.

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

THE MOST PLEASANT ASSIGNMENT Not so long ago one of the country's best reporters, Mr. Beverly Smith, arrived in our town on what I am sure was the most pleasant assignment in all the history of reporting.

Mr. Smith had been assigned to eat his way over the United States and to gather on his gastronomic tour the best recipes encountered in homes and in restaurants. It was my pleasure to escort Mr. Smith about Atlanta and to sit him down where the arts of the trencherman were an asset.

Now comes a book from Mr. Smith. He and his wife have written a book about their tour and in it are all the recipes they collected from every section of the United States. The book is called "Through the Kitchen Door" and is, I am sure, the first and only cook book compiled by a working reporter.

Mr. Smith was a scientist. He approached his food with enthusiasm, but also with caution and great moral strength. He did not wish to extend himself or to broaden himself in any material sense, by travel. I introduced Mr. Smith to turnip greens cooked with the proper amount of ham hock. I sat him down to cornfield peas cooked with side meat. I saw him supplied with pecan pie, with pumpkin pie, with waffles and chicken hash, with broiled chicken and, at last, with a salad which a Frenchman at Nashville, Tenn., made famous at the famous old Faucon restaurant, closed now these many years. That salad, incidentally, occupies a place in the book. It is a book of travel and a cook book.

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"It (southern cooking) has in it the cunning seasoning of the French through the Huguenots of Charleston and the French families of Louisiana; the fire of Spain, drifting up from New Orleans and Mexico; and the magic of the African. And all this exchanged and blended, in the old days, by the intermiable interfamily visiting among the plantations.

"The colored cooks of the south are the only hereditary cooks of America, comparable with the great cooking families of France and Austria. In America the white cook, if a man, yearns to sell autos; if a woman, dreams of opening a beauty parlor. This is swell for ambition, but hell on seasoning.

"The colored cook, for better or worse, intends to cook all her life, and likes it, and raises her girl to do the same. In this way a lore and a tradition are perpetuated. But something else is necessary. The colored cook cannot and will not cook well unless she has a mistress who understands and appreciates her. She is temperamental. She must be flattered, scolded, cajoled, and made much of when she works her miracles. She must be permitted certain tyrannies of her own. This requires as subtle an art by the mistress as by the cook. The two must work together. It is when you have this team, working harmoniously and happily together, that you learn how good southern cooking can be.

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"Perhaps democracy really begins in the kitchen. Perhaps dictatorships and totalitarianism generally really begin at the sign of the greasy spoon.

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In The Magazines

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Secretary Hull, who is married to a Jewess, feels that we are under a moral obligation to take them in. It is strange that Spanish and Chinese refugees have not been given this moral support of the United States.

We have Jews enough in these United States. They control more money than any other group. Basically all Jews are graspers. Negro citizens realize what that influx will do to you, your jobs, your future? Something should be done about Mr. Hull's enthusiasm for Jewish refugees. We can pity them and pray that the Negro people

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J. Antonio Jarvis Is First Native To Write And Publish History Of The Virgin Islands

By BERALDO GUIRTY
New York Correspondent For Virgin Island Daily News

One of the things that Walter White will do for the Virgin Island people, is to interst their kin, Afro-Americans, in their homeland. The N. A. A. C. P.'s national secretary, who returned from a vacation in the tropic gems recently, was serious when he declared himself in an interview. And now right after his visit, J. Antonio Jarvis, outstanding native, offers: "Brief History of the Virgin Islands."

To all Americans, this book is timely and a "must" read copy. Of course, it is written especially for Virgin Islanders. However, it is advance information over another work already in the making for the world. Really, you have to be acquainted with native affairs to fully appreciate this literary effort, not only for style and technique but its publication as well.

A problem for Negro authors in America is the difficulty of getting white publishers to turn out their writings. Here is where Jarvis scores. He's both author and publisher. As a matter of fact, all of his books—namely: "Fruits in Passing;" "The Three Islands," and "Bamboula Dance," have been published in his own printery, the Art Shop of Charlotte Amalie.

Covers Past and Present

"Brief History of the Virgin Islands" embraces the past and present. Their relation to the world following their discovery by Columbus is covered very cleverly in the first half of the tome. Its swift and interesting movement simply tells the informed reader that the author thought out the task of handling the long ago which has been gone over so many times by alien writers. The second half portrays local events and personalities, from the beginning of American ownership and management. Chapter XIX is a reflection of America's newest citizens—it reads in part:

"It may be truthfully said of the Virgin Islanders that they are very imitative, adaptable and self-possessed, in contrast with people from the larger Leeward and Windward Islands. A St. Thomian or Crucian has the ability to lose himself in a London crowd, or on the San Francisco waterfront, and become for the moment one of the people of that section. He will speak like a Cockney, or like a Connecticut Yankee upon occasion. Perhaps his background has made it easy for him to learn languages and he avails himself of every opportunity to acquire some alien tongue, much to the wonderment of foreigners who are often astonished at meeting natives conversant with German, French, Spanish, Russian, Dutch and Danish. Yet the natives of the Virgin Islands never learned Danish as a language for everyday intercourse."

Known To Literary World

J. Antonio Jarvis needs no introduction to a goodly percentage of the literary lights of America. Through the Virgin Islands, he has met more American and foreign writers of prominence than he would if he had been a Harlemite. To Countee Cullen, Jessie Fawcett, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and others, his work is of a high quality. Countee likes his poetry and Eric Walrond gave him first place with the scribes of Harlem. Personally, I envy his ability to sit down and write a tale from start to finish. Opportunity, Crisis, American Poetry, New York Times and Herald-Tribune, have all carried something from his pen. Besides writing, Jarvis paints. The late Dr. John van Dyke praised his water colors.

Howard Univ Publishes Social Science Book

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 3—"The Howard University Studies in the Social Sciences", a volume of 189 pages, has recently been published by the Division of Social Sciences of the Graduate School.

The new publication contains investigations by students in two fields of study. One is entitled "Africa and the Rise and Capitalism", by Wilson E. Williams; and the other "Negro Disfranchisement in Virginia," by Robert E. Martin. These studies will be continued as annual publications.

The faculty members of the Graduate School have also engaged in the advancement of knowledge by the publication of scholarly works. Current reports for the past academic year showed that these scholarly productions comprised seven books; five co-authors and contributors of chapters to books; fifty-eight scholarly articles, and numerous book reviews.

Research as well as teaching are the fields in which members of the Howard Graduate faculty are devoting their serious interests and activities.

A SOUTHERNER DISCOVERS THE SOUTH

(By Jonathan Daniels, New York MacMillan, 1938 $3.00)

Reviewed by Ethel Harris for ANI

In the spring of '37 through some curiosity which dates, perhaps, from early childhood, Mr. Daniels forsook the editorship of the Raleigh News and Observer to discover the activities of the South's highways and hinterlands. He emerged with a subject matter as wide as his geographic scope. One paragraph concerns disputation with a governor or newspaper editor, the next an excursion into domestic upheavals relating to tariff, or the ills of the Civil War; —Abject poverty, obsentee ownership, unwillingness to sponsor a program for the dissemination of education and culture, and a "Do Without Economy."

A decided advantage of the book is a story of TVA devoid of pretentiousness and newspaper bias. There is a tendency to hope for as daring story of Scottsboro, but Scottsboro is no more important to Mr. Daniel's south than, say, "Tobacco Road" and pales into significance beside the ghost of Huey Long. This is a fault perhaps blithely recognized by the author and intrinsic in the limitations of perceptual impressions from which the book is drawn. If Mr. Daniels is conclusive in any of his findings it is his discovery that caste system—by linking pop and patent medicine—coca cola and carqui—is the best walking symbol of the new south.

Because of their flagrant appearance much attention is given to the cultural shortcomings and economic handicaps. For this we are glad because of their relevancy to the Negro problem. He reminds his readers that the poverty of the south is a part of the same civilization as Harvard and in a measure the creation of the same people. To the author the Negro is an inevitable element in the model concept of the South. Negroes drink their share of coca-cola and are inundated with their share of poverty. The writer has been sufficiently courageous to state without hesitation that Negroes like whites, may be as improvement or detriment to the section depending upon the attitude of the sponsors to training, skills and wider cultural confusion. Curiously, enough, he did not find a disturbing number of Negro churches.

And just as he did not discuss race relations as an isolated phenomenon, he reached his destination without a regional plan. With his insistence, however, upon a plan the reader might perforce believe that on an excursion to Chapel Hill, Mr. Daniels was favored with a peek into Odum's and Moore's material which has since reached the book market under the title, "A Cultural Historical Approach to National Integration."

The book is surprising for the interest one finds in the chronicle of several months and in the simple and obvious routes by which the South may more nearly approximate the American now. Mr. Daniels sets forth his facts deliberately, dramatically, naively, and draws candidly from his impressions. Despite his occasional quacks at the sociologists, his observation of phenomena ranging from Saturday afternoon around the court house to Gold avenue, is a tangible fundation for many of the problems which sociologists, social psychologists, in particular are con-

NEGRO PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION. By Jesse O. Thomas. 12mo. Boston, Mass.: Christopher Publishing House. $1.75.

An account of the Hall of Negro Life at the exposition.

DESIGNING FOR THE STAGE. By Doris Zinkeisen. 4to. New York: The Studio Publications. $3.50.

A volume in "How To Do It" Series.

BROADCASTING AND THE PUBLIC. 12mo. New York: The Abingdon Press. $1.50.

A case study in social ethics by the department of research and education of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS Deposited in the Boston Athenaeum. 8vo. Boston, Mass.: The Boston Athenaeum. $7.50.

With notes on books, Adams seals, and book-plates by Henry Adams.

New Editions and Reprints

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN. By Robert Browning. 4to. New York: Frederick Warne & Co. $2.50.

With the Kate Greenway illustrations.

EPAMINONDAS AND HIS AUNTIE. By Sara Cone Bryant. 12mo. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin Company. 75 cents.

A new edition of this children's story. Illustrated by Inez Hogan.

Harry Stillwell Edwards

Harry Stillwell Edwards was a man of varied talents and touched life at many angles but he will be best remembered as a faithful interpreter of the Old South.

He was cradled in the storm and tumult immediately preceding the War Between the States when impulsive leaders, with many gifts and graces like Robert Toombs, were hurrying us into conflict and yet boasting that they would "drink all the blood that was spilled," while conservatives like Alexander Hamilton Stephens were seeking to avert the strife of brothers.

He was old enough to remember the military occupation of Macon by General Wilson but at the age of 15 he received an appointment to the United States treasury which took him to Washington where he was a playmate of the children of President Grant. His own heritage had suffered disaster in war and reconstruction, and yet in his wider contacts he had acquired a tolerance which, indeed, was a part of his genial and kindly nature.

Thus it came about that the author of The Two Runaways, one of the finest pictures of the relation of the two races in the Old South, became the friend and favorite of Theodore Roosevelt, who made him postmaster at Macon and patronage referee for the state of Georgia.

In his background he belonged to the planter aristocracy which was supposed to lead a life of indolent self-indulgence, and yet he made his own career by overcoming every obstacle placed in his way.

Like so many other Americans who have risen to eminence, his first work was as a newsboy, selling copies of The Macon Telegraph, and when he had wearied of the routine of government employment at Washington he returned to Macon where he established a connection, first with The Telegraph, and later with The Evening News, which made him one of the finest exemplars of American journalism. On The Telegraph he was associated with the gifted Albert Lamar and it would be difficult to say which of the two won highest praise and appreciation for a delicate and yet trenchant style of editorial writing.

Mr. Edwards will always stand high as a master of the short story. Deacon Brown's Backslide, which appeared in Harper's Magazine, attracted wide attention and he was encouraged by the late Henry Alden, the venerable editor of that magazine. It was to the late Richard Watson Gilder, editor of The Cen-

tury Magazine, however, that he owed his greatest encouragement and success. A warm personal friendship sprang up between Mr. Edwards and the editor, who often entertained him in his home. It was in The Century that most of his short stories appeared and as he gained a wider audience he was increasingly recognized as having unequalled insight of all the weakness, the strength and the amiable character of the Negro of the Old South. This insight was happily supplemented with a fine sense of humor, without which no man could ever paint the Southern Negro as he was. Nothing in American literature is more delicious than the agreement of master and man to run away together, as set forth in the Two Runaways.

The amazing energy and resourcefulness Mr. Edwards held in reserve were demonstrated in that tour de force, Sons and Fathers, written in 23 days in competition for a 10-thousand-dollar prize offered by the old Chicago Record. The rigid restrictions of the competition, which required that every chapter should end on a note of suspense, were enough to trammel the most fertile inventiveness, but Mr. Edwards, with unsparing application, accomplished his task within the given time limit and won the prize over thousands of gifted contestants.

This, too, was a story of the Old South, as was the Marbeau Cousins. Both were widely read and the former has been reissued within the past year in response to a reviving demand.

It is no reflection upon the special qualities of these book-length novels to say that Mr. Edwards was most at home with the short story. In 1919, among a series of contributions to The Evening News, appeared Eneas Africanas. The carefree wanderings and and happy self-sufficiency of the old Negro and his master's race horse soon won their way into the affections of the general public. One edition after the other was called for and orders poured in literally from the ends of the earth. A great banking institution of New York bought and distributed 10 thousand copies. It was brought out in a sumptous de luxe edition, with all the advantages of the printer's and engraver's art. Approximately 2 million copies of Eneas Africanas have been sold and it is probable that, after all, it will live longest of all his exquisite work.

Mr. Edwards was essentially a poet, whether he wrote in verse or prose and many of his poems have found an enduring place in the most popular and well-selected anthologies of the day.

Some of his writings, like the Tenth Generation, have had a sociological cast. Of all he wrote it might be said that they contained "not one unworthy thought, no line which, dying, he would wish to blot." But no definite purpose to uplift his fellow man obscured or cumbered the crystal clearness or facile charm of his style.

Mr. Edwards was in great demand as a lecturer and after-dinner speaker. An earlier generation remembers when he toured the country with James Whitcomb Riley, the Hoosier poet, and that prince of humorists, Bill Nye.

Each read from his own distinctive work and in combination presented a program of rare delight.

Schools and colleges, civic clubs and literary organizations were constantly calling upon him for occasional addresses. Without any aspiration to cloud-compelling oratory, he was a ready and entertaining speaker, brightening his themes with the wealth of anecdote always at his command.

In his personal and domestic relations he was always loyal and affectionate. It would be difficult to conceive how he had ever made any man his enemy.

The people of Macon have known him so long and so intimately that they think of him largely as just one of them. Perhaps they cannot realize as yet how much he belonged to the enduring field of American literature and yet it is certain that his artistic and sympathetic pictures of the Old South will last as long as there is any memory of that unique life which grew up in the South under its peculiar institution, so difficult of interpretation even by those who know it best and so vastly misunderstood by those who know it not.

As we realize that the familiar figure has gone from us we may say like the Eastern king of a prince struck down, "taller he seems in death."

A Novel Of The Geechee Negro

CAUGHT IN THE WHIRL. By Hazle Hancock. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston. 314 Pages. Cloth, $2.50.

"The colorful setting of this novel is typical of Savannah and the neighboring locality and the Gechee Negro, but the story is purely fiction."

The above sentence precedes the beginning of Miss Hancock's first full-length novel, CAUGHT IN THE WHIRL, but one finds a greater interest in locality, background and romance combined with spices of humor as one progresses a few pages, than these few words can describe.

Miss Hancock, who is married and uses her maiden name when she writes, has been writing short stories and lyrics from childhood, and in her first full-length novel, has created a piece deserving only of the highest praise. The author is a direct descendant on her paternal side of one of the oldest families of American history. She attended Negro funerals, weddings and other rites of the Geechee Negro, and learned the ways of these darkies of the Deep South in order to portray the exact scenes which occur in the story.

Miss Hancock has travelled throughout the South and is well acquainted with its customs and traditions. She taught school in Savannah and supervised many rural schools where she had, under her care a number of negro schools, thereby being able to add more real interest to the Geechee dialect.

The book opens at the Martin home in Savannah. Vance and Daisy Martin, their two children, Van and Kathleen, are of the "wealthy" class in their community, and frequently display it before their poorer neighbors in "big dinners" and many other ways at their old Southern "mansion."

La Merle Grange, the heroine, (and what a heroine), is brought into the picture immediately, and the reader's interest is centered on her until the closing pages. She and her father, Myles La Grange, live in the "cottage" near the Martins. Her mother, Lucy La Grange, deserts she and her father early in Merle's life. Lucy, as we shall refer to her, chooses a more degrading life in the city, and wearying of a beautiful home life, a child and the kind of happiness that every woman should desire, steals off one night to lead the type of life that she seems fitted, leaving behind a puzzled daughter, but not a puzzling husband and father. As a result of her illicit living, she and her past are the green goblin always turning up and making life miserable for Merle in her daily contacts, social and otherwise.

During her early life and up until she is 18, Merle and her father live from hand to mouth. She is lacking the worldly things that Kathleen Martin, the contemptible wench of the story, possesses, and despite the taunts and ridicule handed out to Merle by Kathleen, she succeeds to quell the rebellious spirit in her many times, only to give way at the wrong time—and her regret. She is gradually caught in a whirl of quick-happening events because of her sudden desire for the material things of life—mainly money—with which to buy pretty clothes and the finer things of life regardless of—but we must not tell too much. However, the book is just that interesting. You become so wrapped up in Merle and her life you sometimes find yourself trying desperately to steer her the right way. The story brings out many misfortunes of life, mainly the past that is black-spotted and cannot be erased due to the fact the feminine sex is involved in all families of the tale.

Spiced throughout the story is the humor expressed by the Geechee negro clan. Their superstitions, loyalty to their "white folks," and their own beliefs of God give a reader interest that surpasses all other Southern tale of like nature. Particularly interesting was the ditty concerning ghosts among the negroes bo'n with a "veil." One, who was fortunate, or shall we say, unfortunate enough to be born with a "veil" recites "Pick Up Dem Feet," in recounting a scene in which he sought vainly to "move 'way from de ghost."

All in all, the book is excellently written, beautifully portrayed in every phase. Let us have another, Miss Hancock.—GENE REEDER.

'Way Down South

THE FLOP-EARED HOUND. By Ellis Credle. Photographs by Charles Townsend. Unpaged. New York: Oxford University Press. $2.

This is an engaging story of a little colored boy who lived "away down South in a little cabin underneath a honey-pod tree." His name was Shadrack Meshack Abednego Jones, but they called him little Boot-jack for short. When the flop-eared hound came to the cabin little Boot-jack was delighted, for he badly wanted a playmate. His mother and father were not so delighted, for the visitor ate Mammy's apple dumplings and chewed Pappy's Sunday-go-to-meeting shoes, and so, in spite of little Boot-jack's protests, the flop-eared hound had to go. He promptly comes back and most of the story is concerned with the family's unavailing attempts to get rid of him. Finally, however, he puts in an appearance at such a lucky moment for little Boot-jack and his parents that he wins the right to return and acquire a home for all the rest of his life.

Like all of Miss Credle's stories, this is genuine and childlike and the interest is well sustained. The photographs used as illustrations are remarkably fine, but one misses the gayety and spontaneity of Miss Credle's drawings, which, in her other books, "Down the Mountain," "Across the Cotton Patch" and "Little Jeems Henry" have seemed such an integral part of the story. For children six to ten. A. T. E.

"Aunt Sara's Wooden God"

By EDYTHE ROBERTSON

"Aunt Sara's Wooden God" is a charmingly told story of life of a closely knit family on a Georgia cotton plantation. Both comedy and tragedy, white and colored and the different shading of Negroes illustrated both in tints of skin and difference of character, are narrated here. Miss Gilbert is obviously at home with the background of her story and an able mistress of characterization. The situations with which her characters have to cope are real problems for real people.

Aunt Sara was the neighborhood "mother" who was called upon when the minister was sick, when mother or father had been parted by death from a beloved family and the children were in need of care, and the neighbors came here to find help for financial ills and who led the agitation for a better choir or new furnishings for the pastor's home. Aunt Sara was the president of the most active club, church club to be sure. She was the moving force in the rural community of Byron near Macon, Ga.

Her benevolence extended to the individuals of her family. The younger, son, Jim, was the mainstay of the family. It was he who shouldered the responsibility of both their farm and the smaller truck farm surrounding the plantation house in the absence of the owner, Owen Gordon. However her influence exerted over her elder son, William nearly threatened her, his mother, with complete undoing and considerable misery to his friends. Aunt Sara wanted William to be a preacher. Her constand words were:

"Some day me an' Jim goin' to be mighty proud of you when you're carryin' the Gospel" and "He's a good un for yuh to pattern after, Willyum, when you starts preachin,."

Now "William wasn't so keen about becoming a preacher, he made her think he was, and after all it would afford him a chance to lead a life of ease and he hated to work," Miss Gilbert explains. In the proceeding pages Miss Gilbert proves this secret antipathy to the ministry in the recital of his endless gambling escapades in the city of Macon where he is living and working with the expressed desire to complete his high school education. She takes him through experiences with loose women, through a robbery and even a murder. True William did not commit the murder but one of his friends, "Slippery" did the actual deed which led to the end of a situation begun because of William. Jim, William's steadfast brother, was incarcerated in the state prison and worked the roads for two long years because of a robbery planned by William and executed by "Slippery". The true causes of these incidents was kept from Aunt Sara because her faith in William's future as a minister of the Gospel was the abiding light of her existence. Because of that Jim endured the hardship of tending the farm alone while William got an education, endured the tortures of the "road work" and almost gave up the only love of his young life, Ruth, daughter of Byron's late pastor.

There was some gossip about William's origin and the difference in shade of his skin. There was also the fact that William was not the son of complacent John Carter, late husband of Aunt Sara. However, Mr. Carter made no difference in the treatment of his sons. It was between the boys that the difference came.

Jim, although he loved his brother, could not resist the opportunity at times to remind William.

"You ain't 'gonna let your wooden God an' cornstalk Jesus fool you into hittin' me." And William respected the admonition backed up by Jim's adequate fists.

The last scene began as the first with the singing of the old spiritual,

"Ah'm gonna lay down my burden
"Down by de river side
"Ain't gonna study war no more."

In the beginning Aunt Sara was looking with anxious exultation toward the time when "Willyum would preach in the Byron church." At the last she was forced to embrace defeat. Death took her from her "Willyum." He bore mute evidence of the ravages of tuberculosis. He tried too late to repent of his sins. He tried hard in a lumber mill in far off Florida. He had tried to minister to the spiritual needs of that lumber camp, tried to do what he considered right but "the wages is Death" and where a bullet from an enraged white man's gun failed, tuberculosis won. There on his bed "his smiling lips became still and set, his body stiffened." William had gone to the place in which the good in him would not battle against the veil in him. He would in the words of the spiritual "study war no more."

"Aunt Sara's Wooden God", an attractively bound conveniently sized volume is published by the Christopher House, Boston. A thought-provokng photograph of the author, a well-known Broadway actress, faces the title page. Langston Hughes, Negro poet and playwright, wrote the foreword capturing the keynote of tragedy underlying the whole Southern problem of the poverty ridden rural Negro.

Real Treat From Pen Of Christine Noble Govan

NARCISSUS AN' DE CHILLUN; Final Adventures of Those Plummer Children, by Christine Noble Govan. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co.; 226 pages, $2.

There are no more lovable characters in the world of children's literature than Carrie, Judy Plummer, and their partners in mischief making, Ned, Betsy, the twin pickaninnies Sears and Roebuck, and little black Emily. Beginning their "debilment" years ago in "Those Plummer Children," carrying on "hilariously in Judy and Chris," their adventures reach an uproarious conclusion in "Narcissus an' de Chillun," a book so refreshing, so full of fun, carrying such a universal appeal, that it would be unfair to adult readers to pass it as a book written for children.

Persons of all ages will enjoy the boisterous misadventures of these genuine American kids. They will enjoy the antics of Hercules, the goat; Sears' fall from grace; Emily's fumigation; and the whitewashing of Prince, the horse, so that he would fit into the color scheme of Mom. Jinny's funeral. And while the boar hunt, which got quite out of control, will bring a response from parents different from that which it will bring from juvenile readers, it will be a cause of genuine laughter to both: "Three filthy pigs, and five filthy children, three of whom poor Mrs. Ellery and Mrs. Plummer recognized in horror as their own . . . rushed past in a medley of noise and action that caused the tea party guests to flee shrieking up the steps to safety."

In the foreword, Mrs. Govan admits the book is a story of her own childhood, then declares that the realest parts of the story are those which describe the houses the family lived in, the way the servants talked and acted, the simple good times in the outdoors, the freedom of the roads, and the kindly old darkies with their songs, their laughter, their quarrels, their praise and their scoldings. She says: "Partly because I wanted my own children to know something of my childhood, and partly because I knew this sort of life was passing away, I tried very hard to make all these parts as true to life as I possibly could."

She not only makes them true to life, she makes them live. With her keen sense of humor, her felicitous wit, her vivid remembrance of child manners, and her superb gift of story telling, she has become the most outstanding writer of juveniles in the South.—ESTHER RENNICK.

Three New Books On Race Children Are Just Released

NEW YORK—(C)—Three new books on colored children have been released by leading publishers and are widely advertised for young people. The first is "Shuttered Windows", by Florence Crannell Means, a 206-page story of a 16-year-old colored school girl who was born in the North but went South to live, published by Houghton Mifflin company of Boston.

The heroine, Harriet Freeman whose life in Minneapolis had spared her many prejudices and discriminations, undergoes a series of painful shocks and disillusionments when she begins life anew with her grandmother on a sea island off the coast of South Carolina. The book is designed to bring a sympathetic view to white girls of an educated colored girl's problems of racial adjustment.

Life at Mt. Vernon in the days of George Washington is vividly portrayed in "A Shipment for Susannah", who was Nellie Custis' maid. Susannah was present when General Lafayette visited General Washington, and saw the great Frenchman help plaster the mansion ballroom walls.

The book, by Eleanor Weakley Noeln, is published by Lothrop, Lee and Sheppard company of Boston.

"Junior, a Colored Boy of Charleston", by Eleanor Frances Lattimore, published by Harcourt, Brace and company of New York, is the story of a lad that is "simple, appealing, and full of the atmosphere and charm of old Charleston."

AUTHOR

MISS ZORA NEALE HURSTON, author of the new book "Tell Me, Horse", published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., which has been widely praised by critics. The book is the story of folk life in Haiti and Jamaica, personally observed and written by a white person ever saw it. Carl Carmer, author of "Stars Fell on Alabama" says: "Her book is full of keen social comment relieved with constant humor, is packed with good stories, accounts or folk religion, songs with both music and words." (Calvin Service

Book Reviews

THE NEGRO'S GOD (As Reflected In His Literature). A 269-page discussion by Benjamin E. Mays, Ph. D., dean, School of Religion, Howard University. Chapman and Grimes, Inc. Publishers. (Mount Vernon Press, Boston, Mass.) 1938. Price: $2.00 per copy.

Dean Mays has well done an extensive, intensive study of that portion of Negro life, commonly thought of as closest to him and his very own, makeup—religion. Heavily connected from a large bibliography of famous writers, "The Negro's God" is a revelation of the idea of God in a group in a permanently lower economic group.

The writer divides the Negro's thoughts of God into three classes—traditional naive ideas of personal God; a God fitting educated group who show Negroes not being inferior are entitled to the social, economic, and political privileges exercised by other groups; and a denial of the existence of a God who can contribute usefulness. The first epoch embraces the period from 1760 through the Civil War; the second from the Civil War to 1914, the year of the beginning of the World War; the third from the time of the beginning of the World War to the present time.

During the first period, according to Mr. Mays, the Negro's writings supported or gave adherence to traditional, compensatory patterns; in the second period, there were expressed ideas that showed a growing consciousnss of social and psychological adjustment; and in the third period, ideas of God that show a tendency or threat to abandon the idea of God as "a useful instrument in perfecting social change."

From 1760 through the Civil War, as reflected through "mass" and "classical" literature — church school literature, the spirituals, and in stenographically reported prayers, the Negro's God is one who fights the battles of His chosen people and who will bring them out victors in every crisis. He is in His Heaven; all is right with the world. God is a rock in a weary land and a shelter in a mighty storm God knows all our needs and He will provide for them. All things work together for good for those who love the Lord. He holds slave-holders accountable to Him. There is a feeling that things in this life don't matter, but that all will be all right "over there."

Between the Civil War and the World War, there is shown a desire of a need for social change and recognition since the Emancipation Proclamtion. There is a development of the this worldly attitude; a feeling that God will make everything right in Heaven where there are no segregation, lynching, prejudice, crime nor vice. God has put the Negro and the white man here in America to prove to the world that two races varying in culture and color can live together, each contributing to the welfare of the other. God, if one lets Him, erases from one' heart race-hatred and prejudice. Finally, God desires that every individual be given the right to grow to perfection without the imposition of artificial barriers from without.

The third and final trend in the development of the ideas of God, according to the author, shows writings in the post-World War period that tend to consider the idea of God as usless in any effort to reconstruct the world socially. Many of these ideas are not flat denials of the existence of God, but they show incredulity, frustration, and pessimism which make the idea of God of little value in social crises. After 1920, one finds no other worldliness in classical literature, but there is a heavy strain of denial, frustration, cynicism, doubt and bewilderment.

Dr. Mays says that the most outstanding revelation of this study is the fact that the Negro's idea of God grows out of his social situation. Ideas of God and religion develop in accordance with the social crisis. The Negro is interested in a God who is able to help him bridge the chasm that exists between the actual and the ideal. His life has been too unstable, too precarious, too uncertain, and his needs have been too great for him to become sufficiently objective to theologize or philosophize about God.

These findings of the Howard University dean form one of the most interesting books on Negro life and thought the reviewer has read recently. It is recommended for serious reading of all Americans.

New Novel Of South But Mediocre Book

BLACKBERRY WINTER. By Evelyn Hanna. Dutton. $2.50.

Evelyn Hanna has created a novel of the South which differs somewhat from the conventional type of below Mason and Dixon line story.

"Blackberry Winter" not only has approximately the same setting as "Gone With the Wind," but it almost equals Margaret Mitchell's novel in length. A story that takes three generations to relate and whose verbosity is relieved only by the dash and [illegible] both Pauls Miss Hanna's efforts have brought neither glory nor defeat—it is one of those middling books with glaring defects and shining examples of good prose.

VICTORIA LANE.
Mrs. Richard Lane.

His Book On Sale

A. Clayton Powell's Harlem friends may secure his book, "Against the Tide," at 132 West 138th Street, New York, N. Y., for $1.75 until January 16; sent postpaid to any address on receipt of $2.

3 New Books On Negro Children Released By Publishing Concerns

Three new books on colored children have been released by leading publishers and are widely advertised for young people.

The first is "Shuttered Windows," by Florence Crannell Means, a 206-page story of a 16-year-old colored school girl who was born in the North but went South to live, published by Houghton Mifflin company of Boston. The heroine, Harriet Freeman, whose life in Minneapolis had spared her many prejudices and discriminations, undergoes a series of painful shocks and disillusionments when she begins life anew with her grandmother on a sea island off the coast of South Carolina. The book is designed to bring a sympathetic view to white girls of an educated colored girl's problems of racial adjustment.

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Book Review

POETRY BY 83 COLORED WRITERS

NEGRO VOICES. Edited by Beatrice M. Murphy, illustrated by Clifton Thompson Hill, 173 pages, $1.50, published by Henry Harrison, 79 Fourth Ave., New York.

By FRANK M. DAVIS

FOR the first time since the appearance of Countee Cullen's "Caroling Dusk" in 1927, as the anthologist points out, the poetry of contemporary Negro writers has at last been compiled into a comprehensive volume. This book, just published by Henry Harrison, is "Negro Voices," and was ably edited by Miss Beatrice M. Murphy with the assistance of Miss Lucia Mae Pitts and John W. Burton, all of them Washington poets.

There is no question of the need for this anthology. It ought to revive general interest in Negro letters, prove to the skeptics that our bards are doing work comparable to that of whites, provide the race conscious with a book they should be proud to own, and furnish poetry lovers with the diversified output of 83 writers.

The contributors include those who have already established some reputations in the field of literature, as well as several who are for the first time seeing their work in print. Better known names are those of Langston Hughes, Lewis Grandison Alexander, Edward Dejoie Burbridge, Alpheus Butler Marcus B. Christian, Anita Scott Coleman, Wesley Curtwright, Randolph Edmonds, Nick Aaron Ford Benjamin Franklin Gardner, Ruby Berkley Goodwin, Octave Lilly, Jr. Cora Ball Moten, M.. Beaunorus Tolson, and Lucy Mae Turner.

As might be expected, the work of some of the 83 is quite immature, but there are enough really fine things to counteract such defects. Of real significance is the subject matter. Although there is much concerning the racial plight, one poets as a whole are "escapists"; their muse chums with Cupid. There is some religious verse, a few dialect poems and work in the general mood of Edgar Lee Masters, but poems of general social significance and realism are conspicuous by their scarcity.

TWO FINE COMPOSITIONS

But Negro Voices contains two amazingly fine compositions. One is "Roaring Third" by Helen A. Johnson, a 20-year-old Tennessee school teacher, and is a vivid, realistic description of a black ghetto in a small town. The other "Faith," by Leona Lyons, Alabama teacher, tells of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a style as salty and pungent as anything in "The Green Pastures."

There are other works of high order. Iola M. Brister, William Brown, Conrad Chittick, Jay Raymond England, Clara H. Haywood, Lois Royal Hughes, Leighla Lewis, Matthew Mitchell, Georgiana Oliver, Beatris Overby, Robert N. Perry, Jr., Dorothy Lee, Louise Shaed, Abram G. F. Smith, Laura E. Smith, Cornelius V. Troup, Coston Vale, Naomi Evans Vaughn and Vincent Williams contribute outstanding verse, while Lucia Mae Pitts, in her creations, bears out our opinion that she consistently writes the best love poetry produced among our women.

Harvey M. Williamson of Cleveland could be one of the foremost Duskymerican poets if he would not follow the Spoon River Anthology so closely. He has ideas and keeps his eyes open, as witness his "Lily Baines:"

Mrs. Benson was president of
of the local chapter
Of the Daughters of the Confederacy
And the society leader in Benson.
But she hated me.
My mother used to Cook for the Sheltons,
And we lived in their backyard.
But I was pretty and I knew it.
Phil Benson thought so, too.
So I had an automobile and a maid,
The race problem was no concern of mine.

Clifton Thompson Hill has furnished more than two dozen illustrations for Negro Voices. Some we like and some we don't, but it is only fair to say that Mr. Hill has a unique modern style.

The volume is certainly a contribution to contemporary literature, and Miss Murphy, along with her associates, deserves high praise for the work they did.

Bibliography - 1938

'A Puritan In Voodooland' Is Exactly Who Miss Taft Is

By JOHN SELBY
Associated Press Arts Editor

SOUTH NORWALK, CONN., Dec. 3.—(AP)—In a quiet by-water, just off this city's main street, lives one of our leading voodoo experts. Her name is Edna Taft, and you'd never guess it to look at her.

Miss Taft knows so much about this business of voodoo as daily practised in the torrid Isle of Haiti that she just has done a book about the cult and the island which she calls "A Puritan in Voodooland." It's the perfect title.

Miss Taft is definitely a Puritan, even a D. A. R. Her people helped found Norwalk and her family still lives here. Her ancesters include "The" Tafts, "The" Jennings, the Cheneys who used to make all that silk.

One of her forebears was a pioneer oysterman around here, who also was director of a bank, and for decades deacon of the local Baptist Church. Another was named Zacharias Raymond, and Zacharias is directly responsible for Miss Taft's living a long time in Haiti with the natives.

Zacharias was a sea captain. He used to go to Africa and load 700 blacks into his 3-master. Then he went to Haiti, where he sold his cargo shrewdly and reloaded with rum and such like. This he took up Norwalk way, and then he started all over.

Zacharias kept a diary full of exotic names and ornery doings. All the time Miss Taft was studying at William and Mary College, Banard, Columbia and the University of Toulouse she treasured the diary, and dreamed about it.

Then she got a job teaching French in Westport, Conn., and taught with a will for three years. The job got her down; hear health broke. It was a lucky break.

Off To Haiti

She went to Haiti, by chance got in with the native aristocracy, lived among these blacks and mulattos for many months, and not without qualms, either. After all, a Puritan girl is a Puritan girl, however adventurous she may seem.

Miss Taft found out a lot. She learned that Toussaint L'Ouverture was not exactly a Haitian Georgie Washington, though the record looks that way. He actually was double-crossing his people, Miss Taft says, instead of defending them from Napoleon.

She discovered, also, that the massacre of 1937 was quite likely part of a plan on the part of a certain nation to establish a base close to our Panama Canal.

She stepped out onto her Haitian porch late one night and actually saw the prehistoric monster which keeps the Haitian natives in terror. It's a huge lizard, and it has a horn. Scientists say the lizard does exist, in Haiti only.

And she got all mixed up in voodoo. Those charms, blood sacrifices, dances in which the hips sway and naughty things happen later, even rites in which human sacrifice is included are not the exclusive property of the peasant, says Miss Taft. The native aristocracy conforms with the tents of religious belief all right. Up just to be on the safe side, she says, lots of them worship the voodoo gods as well.

In fact, Miss Taft made two conquests which are pretty remarkable for a New England school teacher. One was a proposal from the nephew of one of Haiti's numerous dark presidents. Another was a voodoo priest in person, who thought she was pretty nice, and tried to convert her to voodoo practices. Unsuccessfully, says Miss Taft.

Spurns Magic Wand

"He wanted to send me a magic wand which bring all sorts of luck," says Miss Taft, I didn't want it. It would have been a mean trick, because I don't think the old man will like my book."

Anyway, she doesn't need that wand, for she got something better from one of her two red Persian cats. Miss Taft had never sold a book before, and she wanted to very much. One day the cat jumped the back fence with the left hind foot of a rabbit in his mouth. Two days later the book was sold. This is plain New England fact, she insists.

Because it imputes voodoo practices to a lot of people who deny them loudly, Miss Taft thinks her book is likely to be unpopular in certain Haitian circles. If its readers knew what a psychological miracle produced it, they might think differently.

Miss Taft talks a lot in the book and in the parlor of her mother's house and before women's clubs about the mixed marriages of Haiti, and the odd gradations of color and caste. This is the reflection of her own past into her literary present. It is a New England girl concealing her feeling of daring under a heap of words.

For the real triumph in Miss Taft's career so far is probably her ability to bury the Puritan prejudices of a born and bred Yankee so deeply that those voodoo dancers, priests and practitioners never guessed it was there.

Her book was produced on a "stand" in the aforementioned parlor, which is pretty full of pianos, whatnots and other New England impedimenta. Now Miss Taft is doing a novel, and waiting for the cat to jump the fence again.

Dr. DuBois Speaks At Emory University

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, professor of sociology at Atlanta University, addressed the students and faculties of Emory University's theological department this week where he spoke on "Ministers and International Relations".

Last week, Dr. DuBois was one of the resource persons at the Fifth Annual Institute of Social Relations and Affairs held at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia. At each of the five sections of the Institute, there was a visiting resource person and Dr. DuBois represented the section on "Political Action in the World". Other resource persons on the program were professors from the University of Georgia and Emory University.

The latest book by Dr. DuBois, "Black Folk, Then and Now", with five hundred manuscript pages, will be published in the spring of 1939 by Henry Holt and Company. It is a history of the Negro race in Africa, North and South America, and the West Indies.

Lore of Haiti

TELL MY HORSE. By Zora Neale Hurston. Illustrated. 301 pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. $3.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON went to Haiti and Jamaica on a Guggenheim Fellowship to investigate the folklore, voodoo and native customs of those islands, and received a second year's extension of the fellowship when the first time limit had expired. This book is the result of that long and intimate research; and it is itself intimate in a specific and unique sense. As a Negro author, Zora Hurston could not only go among the simple and secret people of the island hills and valleys but she could understand them. She could talk with them almost casually, listen to old legends recounted on a wild-pig hunt in Jamaica's Cock Pit country, be received among the initiates at voodoo ceremonies in Haiti, even photograph a real zombie. And she writes of all this with sympathy and level-headed balance, with no sensationalism, in a style which is vivid, sometimes lyrical, occasionally strikingly dramatic, yet simple and unstrained. She is interested in modern progress among these West Indian peoples, too, and she writes of Haiti's recent history and its present problems with a sharp-edged earnestness. This is—it goes without saying—an unusual and intensely interesting book, richly packed with strange information.

Voodoo in Haiti is strong and deeply entrenched in the people's lives, Miss Hurston shows her readers, in spite of the fact that "under the very sound of the drums the upper-class Haitian will tell you that there is no such thing." That denial is the natural enough reaction of national pride, she adds, from a person who "has read the fantastic things that have been written about Haitian voodoo by people who know nothing at all about it. * * * All this paints the Haitian as a savage and he does not like to be spoken of like that." Yet the Haitian voodoo is a distinct pagan religion with its own pantheon of good and bad gods. It is of these gods and their worship that Miss Hurston writes here.

The gods are not the "Catholic calendar of saints done over in black." Nearly all of them come from Africa. The only "loa"—or god—of purely Haitian origin is the one whose ritual gives this book its name: Guedé, the boisterous god which the peasants have created in their own image, and whose devotees in real or pretended ecstasy bawl forth scandal with the prefatory phrase, "Tell my horse."

Zombies really exist in Haiti, too. And the dreadful creation of these "living dead" fastens on, "with Haitian variations," to the "old European belief in selling one's self to the devil." Zora Hurston was allowed to see, listen to, touch and photograph one of these tragic creatures in a hospital, and she discussed with government doctors the mysterious drugging which produces the temporary semblance of death and a permanent mental paralysis. The secret of the zombie "giving" has never been discovered. In an attempt to investigate it further Miss Hurston found herself brought close to the terrible organization—racketeers or cannibals or both—of the "Cochon Gris," which progressive Haitians are working hard to destroy.

Some of the book's photographs are very interesting, but most of them are unfortunately not well reproduced.

Novel Of The Geechee Negro

CAUGHT IN THE WHIRL. By Hazle Hancock. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston. 314 Pages. Cloth $2.50.

"The colorful setting of this nove is typical of Savannah and the neighboring locality and the Gechee Negro but the story is purely fiction."

The above sentence precedes the beginning of Miss Hancock's first full-length novel, CAUGHT IN THE WHIRL, but one finds a greater interest in locality, background and romance, coupled with spices of humor as one progresses a few pages, than these few words can describe.

Miss Hancock, who is married and uses her maiden name when she writes, has been writing short stories and lyrics from childhood, and in her first full-length novel has created a piece deserving only of the highest praise. The author is a direct descendant on her paternal side of one of the oldest families of American history. She attended Negro funerals, weddings and other rites of the Geechee Negro, and learned the ways of these darkies of the Deep South in order to portray the exact scenes which occur in the story.

Miss Hancock has travelled throughout the South and is well acquainted with its customs and traditions. She taught school in Savannah and supervised many rural schools where she had, under her care, a number of negro schools, thereby being able to add more real interest to the Geechee dialect.

The book opens at the Martin home in Savannah. Vance and Daisy Martin, their two children, Van and Kathleen, are of the "wealthy" class

in their community, and frequently display it before their poorer neighbors in "big dinners" and many other ways at their old Southern "mansion."

La Merle Grange, the heroine, (and what a heroine), is brought into the picture immediately, and the reader's interest is centered on her until the closing pages. She and her father, Myles La Grange, live in the "cottage" near the Martins. Her mother, Lucy La Grange, deserts she and her father early in Merle's life. Lucy, as we shall refer to her, chooses a more degrading life in the city, and weary-ing of a beautiful home life, a child and the kind of happiness that every woman should desire, steals off one night to lead the type of life that she seems fitted, leaving behind a puzzled daughter, but not a puzzling husband and father. As a result of her illicit living, she and her past are the green goblin always turning up and making life miserable for Merle in her daily contacts, social and otherwise.

During her early life and up until she is 18, Merle and her father live from hand to mouth. She is lacking the worldly things that Kathleen Martin, the contemptible wench of the story, possesses, and despite the taunts and ridicule handed out to Merle by Kathleen, she succeeds to quell the rebellious spirit in her many times, only to give way at the wrong time—and her regret. She is gradually caught in a whirl of quick-happening events because of her sudden desire for the material things of life—mainly money—with which to buy pretty clothes and the finer things of life regardless of—but we must not tell too much. However, the book is just that interesting. You become so wrapped up in Merle and her life you sometimes find yourself trying desperately to steer her the right way.

The story brings out many misfortunes of life, mainly the past that is black-spotted and cannot be erased due to the fact the feminine sex is involved in all families of the tale.

Spiced throughout the story is the humor expressed by the Geechee negro clan. Their superstitions, loyalty to their "white folks," and their own beliefs of God give a reader interest that surpasses all other Southern tales of like nature. Particularly interesting was the ditty concerning ghosts among the negroes bo'n with a "veil." One, who was fortunate, or shall we say, unfortunate enough to be born with a "veil" recites "Pick Up Dem Feet," in recounting a scene in which he sought vainly to "move 'way from de ghost."

All in all, the book is excellently written, beautifully portrayed in every phase. Let us have another, Miss Hancock.—GENE REEDER.

New Books

HERE 'TIS.—A collection of 84 poems by Lyla Myers, many of which have appeared on the editorial page of the AFRO-AMERICAN and scores of other newspapers.

As AFRO readers know, Mrs. Myers is a poet who writes of common, everyday happenings with charm and simplicity.

She is the bard of the unlovely. Here's one:

"Ofttimes dumb men are handsome, while
The ugly ones are smart;
And usually an homely girl
Possesses a big heart."

Here's another:

"I have three square meals every day;
Some dollars in my purse;
I've never won a beauty prize,
But—I don't look no worse."

Published by Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Price $1.

* * *

IT WILL BE DAYBREAK SOON, by Archibald Rutledge, white, who thinks the plantation Negro is the American Negro at his best.

His book contains 12 sketches of varied colored characters on his South Carolina plantation.

Published by Fleming H. Revell, Co., New York, Price $1.25.

* * *

AGAINST THE TIDE, an autobiography by A. Clayton Powell, Sr., pastor emeritus Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York.

Published by Richard R. Smith, 120 E. 39th Street, New York, Price $2.00.

* * *

AMERICAN CASTE IN THE NEGRO COLLEGE by Buell G. Gallagher, white, president of Talladega College, published by Columbia University Press, price $2.50.

Dr. Gallagher says that all the arguments for the inferiority of the colored people were once used to keep women in their places.

* * *

JUST OFF THE PRESS

I suppose by now that you have seen "New Negro Voices," the newest anthology of Negro poetry, edited by Beatrice Murphy. It is most interesting reading and the preface by the editor is really enlightening.

Delaney B. Fantroy, celebrating his eighteenth anniversary in business in Washington, marked the event with a stag banquet on Friday at Harrison's. Toastmaster was Jsese H. Mitchell, president of the Industrial Bank.

Entertainment was furnished by W. D. Tindell, owner of the Republic Gardens. Those present were:

Sergeant George H. Wanton only colored person holding the Congressional medal of honor Guy Tinner, Capt. Sylvester Epps Col. West A. Hamilton, Percy Y Hamilton, W. D. Tindell, W. H Cowan, Maurice W. Spencer;

George E. Hayes, Eli Collins Linwood Koger of Baltimore Robert Harrison, Dr. Joseph Brazier, Waverly Woods, William Henson, Benjamin Scott, Oswald Burke, Garland Mackey, John H Carter, James White, Jesse Mitchell, Joseph W. Cox, Dr. Claude P. Carmichael, and Hosie Price of Winston-Salem, N.C.

* * *

MORE RFLECTIONS

Why can't Washington audiences refrain from that restlessness which they show near the end of a play? Toward the last act, programs begin rustling, pocketbooks begin clipping, and a general wave of unrest sweeps them. In general, more appreciative than most audiences, this is the only discourtesy which a Washington group will show, but it must be disconcerting to the actors.

Why doesn't somebody give a treasure hunt or a scavenger party? Why don't dances come more evenly and not get all bunched together in one week-end? Why doesn't somebody invent a gadget that will permit the user to see everybody in a room at the same time? Why?

Shorter Notices

THE BACK DOOR. By Julian R. Meade. Longmans, Green and Company. $2.50.

"The Back Door," by Julian R. Meade, is a moving and sympathetically told story of Negroes who work in tobacco factories and as servants in the houses of white people in a small Virginia city. Mr. Meade writes of an intolerable situation with compassion and understanding. But perhaps because, being a Southerner, he is emotionally, although not intellectually, inured to his milieu, his novel lacks the drive and intensity necessary to force its full significance into the reader's mind. Seen entirely through the eyes of the Negroes who work for them, the white people never become three-dimensional. As types made familiar in other novels of the South, they all seem to talk alike, to be too arbitrarily divided into good and bad. The colored people are more developed as characters and more interesting, but they have a kind of universal gentleness which is hard to reconcile with the poverty and cruelty of their lives. The publishers say that "The Back Door" is written with mingled pity and irony. Of Mr. Meade's pity and good-will there can be no doubt, but of the irony which makes William March's novels of black and white people so unforgettable there is none.

Bibliography - 1938

An Inquiring Southerner Meets Southerners

A Daniels Comes To Judgment In His Native Land

A SOUTHERNER DISCOVERS THE SOUTH, by Jonathan Daniels; Macmillan—$3.

Did a Southerner discover the South, or did a Southerner discover himself by seeing the South?

That is the question inherent in this amazing book.

Daniels, son of Ambassador Josephus Daniels, born, bred and educated in North Carolina, and now editor of his father's famous paper, The Raleigh News and Observer, comes of two lines of people who have been Southern since the Europeans came to scare the Indians away and help themselves to whatever was left, which included an empire of indescribable riches. His father has been an eminen[t] American for 40 years, his uncle, Ensign Worth Bagley, for whom a physician-brother is named, was the first naval officer to die in the war with Spain. Nevertheless Daniels is not quite sure that he is an authentic, at least not a typical, Southerner, for he spent much of his mature life above the Potomac, and even in Europe, and so he says, he imagines himself capable of writing a "detached" account of the South as it is today. Yet in the first chapter of his story of an informal but thoroughgoing pilgrimage through all of the States of the South—except Texas, of which more anon—he writes:

"You are not a true Southerner," he (a Yankee friend) said. "You've escaped."

I hope not. Escape is to the South, not away from it. Watch the trains and the roads, and the new gentlemen on the old plantations. For good or ill, being a Southerner is like being a Jew. And, indeed, more needs to be written about the similiarity of the minds and the emotions of the Jew, the Irishman, the Southerner, and, perhaps, the Pole, as a basis for the better understanding of each of them and of them all.

You see! Here is a young man who once fancied himself a political and social radical, at least a natural rebel against laissez faire and many if not all of the mores of his native region. But one day he got in his car at Arlington, where Lee's ghost leads a more aristocratic life than any president, and drove South. In his course he sought out all sorts of Southerners black and white, poor, middle-class and rich. He sought out the politically and economically dispossessed and the powerful as well. Our pilgrim visited mountain, valley and seashore

Photograph by Wootten-Moulton

JONATHAN DANIELS
Author of
"A Southerner Discovers the South"
(Macmillan)

He stopped at country boarding houses and gaudy hotels. He met rulers and ruled, he met the indifferent and the uninterested, he met the healthy and the sick, and plied them with searching questions. He came face to face with all types of Southerners—except the Texans and the preachers. What were these people interested in? What were their anxieties and hopes? What did they think of their way of life? What their scope of minds and hearts? He found the answers to his questions. In the end he learned that there are as many Souths as there are Southerners, no two quite alike, and that the South is the sum total of all, whatever that may be, but lovable, withal.

When Daniels came face to face with whatever the South is, he seems to have been bowled over, sometimes saddened, sometimes angered, sometimes overjoyed, but in the end we find him writing a moving panegyric on Charleston, the sweetheart of his soul.

Thus our pilgrim began his tortuous ride as a hard-boiled cynic, possibly a duty-struck social philosopher, and came to the end of the road a sentimental Southerner if ever we saw one. He needn't try to wisecrack his way out of the predicament in which his inquiring mind and his sense have put him! The boy has gone soft on his native South. I for one am happy about it, because I think that is the condition in which every enlightened Southerner is likely to find himself, once he bores deeply enough from within. I only hope that this gay blade of Southern journalism, this powerful and free-handed critic of stuffed shirts and idiotic practices will not in the end lock arms with Dave Clark, the fabulous fascist who edits a comic textile organ in Charlotte, North Carolina. At all events I believe that however impetuous this young liberal may once have been in his ardor as a social and political reformer, today he is the mellowed philosopher, still independent, still competently critical, but that having met Southerners face to face and looked upon the soil, the policies and the conditions that hold them down, he will never be the same again. I believe that we middle-of-the-roadsters have found in Daniels a sturdy and gallant recruit, and I think we are going to get better work out of him in future.

A SOUTHERNER DISCOVERS THE SOUTH is significant in more than one respect. In the first place it is written in the newer manner and so marks another break with the old tradition of "polite" literature about the South. There are gay and saucy, even bawdy, phrases running like a red seam through a green pattern. In other days the author of such a book would have giggled and tittered in his references to biological scenes and practices—but this son of Methodism's great Josephus Daniels does not hesitate to use plain Saxon nouns and verbs, yet these exhibits, brought over from the Elizabethan era are not obtrusive and so not offensive. They seem natural enough, and they will be tolerated by current Southerners. This, I think, is not without significance. The very manner of the book is audacious, frank, civilized and wholly unhypocritical. Daniels is not the first new Southerner to employ in print the Saxon language that the average Southerner employs in ordinary speech, but he does it charmingly. Even so, I shall be disappointed if the United States Embassy at Mexico City does not file a formal protest against such goings-on

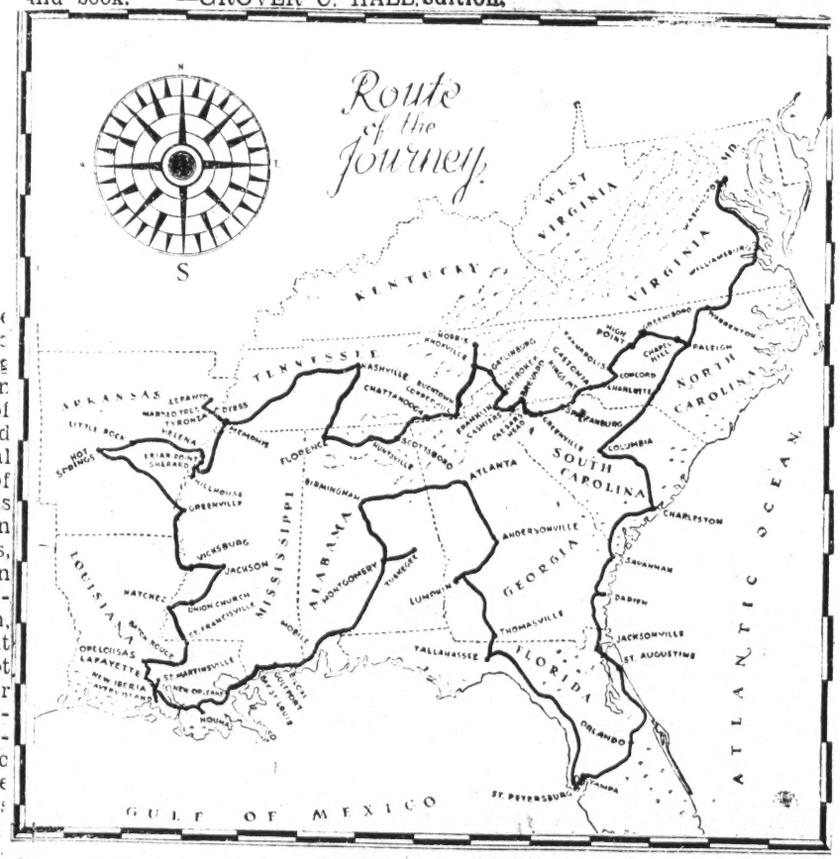
The book is important also for its poignancy, its wit and satire, its utter candor, its philosophic grasp of the materials under notice, for the mellowness and restraint with which it is written, and finally it is to be cheered for its freedom from dogma and arrogance, for its merry impudence on the one hand and its avoidance of the grandiloquent on the other.

There are some flaws in the book, to be sure. For one thing Mr. Daniels ignores Texas as if it were unrelated to the South, which it is not. For another Mr. Daniels ignores the Southern clergy. I think he should have devoted one chapter to this phenomenon of Southern civilization, because it seems to me to be impossible to capture the spirit of and analyze the conflict in the Southern character without putting the microscope upon the powerful Southern evangelical clergy and at the same time putting the microscope upon the Southerners' inhibited love of gaiety, song and story. I do not think this strange conflict has ever been studied adequately.

But on the whole Mr. Daniels has performed magnificently. He is an amazingly accurate and amusing reporter of scenes, situations and personalities. Also he is a savage critic. But in the end we see this man who once was something of a cynic and scoffer loving and believing in his fellow Southerners. He has written a good book. —GROVER C. HALL.

PRINCE NYABONGO WRITING NEW BOOK

OXFORD, Aug., Aug. 8.—(By William Harrison for INP)—Prince Nyabongo, famous as the author of the "Story of An African Chief," a Book-of-the-Month published by Scribners in 1936, has written two volumes of Bantu stories for children which are now being used extensively in English schools. Both of these have gone into a second edition.



Route followed by Jonathan Daniels on the journey he describes in "A Southerner Discovers the South" (Macmillan)

History of Negro Boxers Published

NEW YORK, Sept. 8—(ANP)—The first volume of a pretentious history of Negro boxers entitled "Black Dynamite", will soon be on sale, it was announced last week by Nat Fleischer, white, editor and publisher of The Ring, boxing magazine, who is compiling the work.

Black Dynamite will tell the complete story of colored boxers from 1782, when they first became prominent, to the present day. Fleischer is publishing it himself.

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Widely Known Writer Lauds Book By Thomas J. Jones

By KELLY MILLER

"EDUCATION For Life" is the title of a bochure of 287 pages published by the Phelps-Stokes Foundation, as a tribute to Thomas Jesse Jones in celebration of his twenty-fifth anniversary as its executive secretary. Needless to say the work is gotten up with becoming dignity and typographical style.

The contents consist of the likeness of Dr Jones as frontispiece, foreword by Thomas Jesse Jones, introduction by Anson Phelps Stokes, Resolutions Trustees of the Phelps Stokes Fund. Biographical Sketch by L. A. Pay, and the bulk of the volume is congratulatory letters from Dr. Jones' friends, admirers, and well wishers.

These letters come from America Europe, Asia and Africa, indicative of the reins and scope of his service, perhaps there is no other single individual engaged in this field of philanthropy and education who have elicited such wide-spread appreciative ecomiums Those with whom and for whom he has labored without regard to race, sex or country, have gladly joined in their expression of appreciation and praise.

STRANGE POSITION

The purpose of a book review is either to give the reader such an enticing summary that he will be induced to read the book for himself, or to present such a condensed and comprehensive resume that further perusal will be unnecessary.

I cannot hope at this time and place to enforce either of these objectives. On the other hand, I find myself rather in the position of Lord McCaulay, while essaying to review Mitford's history of Greece.

It is a subject in which, "I love to forget the accuracy of a judge in the veneration of a worshipper."

Open confession is good for the soul. When Thomas Jesse Jones first assumed or had straddled upon him the mission of spokesman for the higher education of the Negro, I found myself like Dr. DuBois and other colored educators and publicists of that day, in a rather critical attitude although much less caustic than that other critic. We felt that the opportunity for leadership in Negro affairs would be given to Negroes themselves.

NEGRO NEEDS AID

Sober reflections have compelled me to review, revise, and to a certain extent, reverse many opinions which I formally held with the tenacity infallibility of youth. The Negro is not able to contribute materially towards his own higher education.

Contributions for this purpose are being syndicated in philanthropic trust and foundations which requier the same kind of experience and efficiency which come from close touch and contact just as with a purely financial trust. The Negro misses exposure to such opportunities. He has never demonstrated and is not credited with the ability to handle large business and financial interests.

Therefore, it will be necessary to place white men in overhead charge of these philanthropic trusts. It is unfortunate that the overhead management of Negro institutions have no always been recruited by white men of the requisite experience, influence, stamp and standing.

USES BEST BLOOD

When Governor Andrews of Massachusetts found that he could not equip a Negro regiment with Negro officers, he decided that he would put men of the very best blood, tradition and culture which Massachusetts afforded in command. This is the consummation devoutly to be wished in all Negro philanthropies.

Thomas Jesse Jones fulfills the dictionary of philanthropy as "one who is a lover of mankind, and who sympathitzes with and endeavors to help his fellow men." He giveth best who loveth best. Like the Apostle Paul, Thomas Jesse Jones was born somewhat out of due season.

New Books

The Associates in Negro Folk Education (Box 636, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D. C.) have just released three new volumes in the Bronze Booklet Series, which "is planned to bring within reach of the average reader basic facts and progressive views about Negro life."

The Bronze Series "presents the Negro's own view of his history, problems and cultural contributions with competent Negro scholars as spokesmen. But they are addressed not merely to the growing Negro audience that desires to know itself more fully, but also to that wider general audience which is beginning to face the Negro and the race question more fairly and with intelligent open-mindedness."

The three new booklets are "The Negro and Economic Reconstruction" by T. Arnold Hill, "The Negro in American Fiction" and "Negro Poetry and Drama" by Sterling Brown. Prof. Brown's book on Poetry and Drama is the seventh to be issued. The first four issued were "Adult Education Among Negroes," by Ira DeA. Reid; "The Negro and His Music" by Alain Locke; "Negro Art: Past and Present" by Dr. Locke, and "A World View of Race" by Ralph J. Bunche.

The eighth booklet, to be published next month, is "Negro History in Outline," by the late Arthur A. Schomburg. Volumes which are contemplated for future publication are "The Negro in the West Indies," "The African Background," and "A Portfolio of Negro Art."

Faye P. Everett's THE COLORED SITUATION, also issued by the Meader Publishing Co., is an evaluation of the place of the Negro in American affairs today by a Missouri educator, with important contributions by other noted Negro authors. Dr. Everett sees self-betterment culturally and economically as the Negro's hope.

Negro Stories.

NEGRO ART, MUSIC AND RHYME By Helen Adele Whiting. Illustrated by Lois Mailou Jones. Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C. $1.10.

In "Negro Art, Music and Rhyme," Helen Whiting carefully employs a style suitable to young people, yet presents authentic, accurate stories of the negro race. Part 1 relates facts of "African Art and Music" in a concise, engaging way, while part 2 is devoted to "American Negro Song, Dance and Rhyme." Numerous black and white illustrations, many of which are double-paged, add informative value to the stories. Helen Whiting's second book is as engaging as her "Negro Folk Tales" and should be a valuable factor in advancing greater respect for negro civilization. —RUTH M. GREEN.

Ardsley, N. Y. Recorder

SEP 8 1938

FROM CAPTIVITY TO FAME, the life of George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute, by Raleigh H. Merritt, has just been published by the Meader Publishing Co. (Boston). Dr. Muskegee, one of the South's greatest scientists and a fighter for the welfare of the Negro race. produced among his numerous inventions more than 200 different products from the lowly peanut, vivid and lasting colors from ordinary clays, and numerous side-products from the sweet potato. A noted lecturer as well, he was the first Negro to be given membership in the British Royal Society . . . .

TELL MY HORSE

What a title and what a book! It is not too much to predict that this phrase may become popular after the meaning is known. Zora Neale Hurston calls her two-years' study of Haiti by this queer appellation.

"Tell My Horse" is the Haitian's excuse to speak his uncomplimentary mind aloud without fear of reprisal, according to Miss Hurston.

The book is a good mixture of science, superstition, history, speculation, and naive faith that the Haitian tongue was not in its cheek when it permitted its innards to be inspected by the author.

Watch for the review next week in OMS.

Our first printed review of a novel was just one year ago. The book was Miss Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God". We still like that story and we still like our own review. This new book, in its exotic setting, is not so near to us as the Florida Everglades of last year's book. It is fascinating and fanciful but lacks the universal appeal that Jane's love story possesses.

* * * * * *

As, perhaps, you know, we have been committed to an institution. Even though this one is an institution of learning, there are certain rules and restraints which are a bit irksome to a free spirit. Next week is ghoulish festival of that monster, "Mid-term Exam". Many will be the sacrifices to this destroying, unfeeling bruite. If we escape its rending clutch this time we shall be well protected by the time the next one comes around. Nevertheless look for Miss Hurston's story next week. We hope to make it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY - 1938

Howard Univ. Trustees Entertained At Reception

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 25--On the evening prior to the day of the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees at Howard university, President and Mrs. Mordecai W. Johnson were hosts at a reception given in honor of the trustees of the university. In attendance were Dr. and Mrs. George E. Bell, of Montclair, New Jersey; Dr. Sara W. Brown, Washington, D. C.; W. Justin Carter, Harrisburg, Pa.; Dr. George W. Coleman, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Charles W. Garvin, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Hungate, New York City; Dr. Guy B. Johnson, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Dr. and Mrs. Peter Marshall Murray, New York City; the Honorable J. C. Napier, Nashville, Tenn.; and Dr. C. C Spaulding, Durham, N. C.

Louis Vaughn Jones, instructor in violin and public school music methods, Howard university, opened a brief program with two violin selections, and was followed by Count Kai de Vermond, a new addition to the faculty of the school of music, and a member of the Danish royalty, who is a distinguished baritone in his own right.

Several members of the various faculties were presented. Dr. Hildrus A. Poindexter, professor of bacteriology, preventive medicine and public health, Howard university, gave an account of his unusual experiences in Mississippi while conducting an experimental laboratory in an effort to identify and counteract social diseases of the area.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, professor of political science, who has just returned from an extended tour of Africa for the purpose of making a highly specialized study in colonial relations and political science, interested the guests with an account of personal experiences encountered on his travels.

Dr. Valaurez B. Spratlin, professor of Romance languages, Howard university, who spent the summer in South America, and who has just published a volume entitled "Juan Latino Slave and Humanist," was presented to the group.

Other members of the faculties presented, who were returning from years of study were Doctors Hendrick and Scott, of the college of dentistry; Prof. Leo Hansberry, who returned from a year's study at Oxford, England, in the field of anthropology; and Miss Lois M. Jones, artist, and a member of the department of art, who has just returned from a year's study in Paris.

This is the first reception of the season given in the newly renovated home of President and Mrs. Johnson. The architects in charge of renovations succeeded in combining modern attractiveness and beauty in a structure which for years has housed the distinguished presidents of Howard university, and is one of the symbols of Howard tradition.

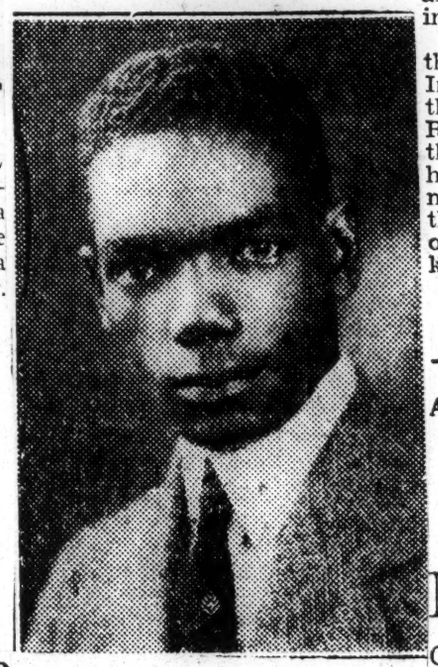
White Stores Feature Harlem Doctor's Book on Women

New York, Nov. 7—(C)—Three big white book stores, Brentano's, Putnam's and Wanamaker's, have taken a consignment of the new book, "The Glory of Womanhood," by Dr. Joseph Wellington, 1921 Seventh avenue. The booklet, the text of which was first delivered as an address before the Empire State Federation of Women's clubs, was sponsored by the Booklovers club of New York, Mrs. Nannie G. Burden, president.

Shortly after the original address before the club women, Dr. Wellington was given a banquet in Harlem at which he was toasted for the lofty tribute to women contained in the address. He was so inspired by this public appreciation that he had the work published in book form.

Dr. Wellington first studied for the ministry at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., but changed to medicine at the University of Vermont, taking the M.D. degree there in '20. He has been practicing in Harlem for 17 years.

Author



RAPHAEL P. POWELL, author of the new book, "Human Side of a People", published by Philemon Co., 224 W. 135th street, New York City, which the author insists settles the question of whether the race should be called "Negroes or Colored." Mr. Powell was educated in Northeastern university and the Suffolk Law School of Boston. He worked on the present volume for twelve years, and it is filled with contemporary as well as past history of the race. He is now working on a book on Ethiopia, dealing with Italian aggression there, and a novel. Calvin Service)

THE AMERICAN RACE PROBLEM: A Study of the Negro, by Edward Byron Reuter. Revised Edition. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company; 430 pages, $3.

Stop almost any man you meet on the street, white or black, and ask him about "the race problem" and he will immediately tell you his opinion, his judgment is almost certain to have an opinion and is equally certain to pass judgment. Yet virtually none of these street corner judges really knows anything about the true status of the Negro and his true relationship to the problems that confront him in his struggle to live his daily life.

Dr. Edward B. Reuter, professor of sociology in the State University of Iowa, has made an exhaustive study of the Negro people in the United States and a thorough study of those points at which the white and the Negro races meet in this country. He has gathered facts and statistics which he has put into charts; he has accumulated innumerable opinions, from both whites and Negroes, which he has woven into the texture of his study.

"The American Race Problem" is the standard book on the subject. In its former edition, sociologists throughout the country praised Dr. Reuter's admirable presentation of the whole subject. Now Dr. Reuter has gathered new and illuminating material which he has included in this most valuable second edition of a book that should be better known, particularly in the South.

Book Review

AMERICAN CASTE AND THE NEGRO COLLEGE: By Buell G. Gallagher. (With a Foreword by William H. Kirkpatrick). Pages: xx + 463, tables, figures. $2.50.

IN "American Caste and the Negro College," Buell G. Gallagher, president of Talladega College, points out that although there are only slightly over one hundred institutions of higher learning for Negroes in the United States, these colleges are strategically important because they train the intellectual representatives of 12,000,000 people. The volume is published by Columbia University Press.

The book has been written with the desire of finding key meanings which may be useful in making the Negro colleges effective servants of the group they are set apart to serve. The study starts, therefore, in the midst of a complex entanglement of historical, sociological, economic, psychological, educational, anthropological, biological, æsthetic, ethical, religious, and philosophical problems. But the interest here is not so much in any of these problems in and of themselves, as it is in the interrelation of a multitude of factors as they functionally and organically combine in the society which confronts the Negro college.

Geographically, the study is limited mainly to the Southern United States—that is where the segregated colleges are, and that is where race relationships originally got their peculiar American formulation. Institutionally, the study is limited to the social function of the Negro college. Functionally, it is a study of those aspects of higher education for Negroes which bear upon the central problems raised by the presence of the Negro college as a segregated institution in the midst of American society.

There are three major parts to the volume. Following the introductory chapter, one section analyzes the social setting of the segregated college, uncovering the basic sociological factors which are principally relevant to the college. The next part of the book analyzes and rejects several notions of Negro education which appear not to be adequate to the demands of a socially functional college, and in the light of this negative analysis attempts a positive statement of the notion of a college which would be more nearly effective socially. The final section discusses in general outline four concrete areas of particular interest in the actual operation of such a college.

CONTENTS: Foreword, by William H. Kilpatrick; Preface; 1. No Armor for His Back; 2. The Nature of Prejudice; 3. Prejudice at Work; 4. The Caste System; 5. Pathological Results of Caste; 6. Dilemmas of the Caucasian Caste; 7. Dilemmas of the Negro Caste; 8. Achilles Had a Heel; 9. Detours and Dead Ends in Negro Education; 170. A Conception of a Functional College; 11. Educative Administration; 12. Town and Gown: The Wider Campus; 13. Teaching; 14. Prophetic Education.

Appendix A. Cotton and Lynchings; Appendix B. Comparative Racial Intelligence; Appendix C. Talladega College Council: A Progress Report; Bibliography; Index.—Columbia University Press, 290 Broad, New York City.

A GREAT CHURCHMAN

FOR THOSE WHO FEEL discouraged and bemoan the times, we recommend a new bok, "Against The Tide," by the Rev. Dr A. Clayton Powell sr., who for 29 years was the able pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. Dr. Powell, now 73, has been pastor emeritus for the past three years and spent most of that time in writing his autobiography.

His friend and companion, the Rev. Dr. William P. Hayes, who wrote the foreword to the book, explains how the author selected his title. Dr. Powell's chief hobby is fishing, especially deep sea fishing in the Gulf Stream off the coast of Florida. Thus he is necessarily interested in the ebb and flow of the tides and the story of his life is an uphill battle for success against tremendous odds. Considering the depth from which he came Dr. Powell's life has been a remarkable one but he has been a success by whatever standards the measurements are taken.

Born in Franklin County, Va., the same neighborhood in which the late Dr. Booker T. Washington first saw the light of day, the

author relates that the momentous occurrence was just twenty-five days after Lee's surrender. Neither the poor whites nor the Negroes had land or money, but if you were willing to work, you could lease land for a nominal rental and keep whatever you produced.

The rate of pay for farm labor at that time was fifty cents per day for men, and there wasn't a white man within 12 miles of the Powell cabin able to pay even that insignificant sum. When the author's family heard that the coal mines of West Virginia were paying $1 per day wages, they decided to move into that region to better their financial condition. In West Virginia the family attained a measure of prosperity and the author was somewhat able to assuage his thirst for knowledge and acquired a wanderlust which has remained with him ever since.

The coal regions at that time were as barbarous as the mining sections of the West and during his adolescent years the environment was anything but the kind desired. Nevertheless, young Powell kept his thirst for knowledge and managed to acquire an education. First, he attended the Wayland Theological Seminary in the District of Columbia, which later became Virginia Union University, where a kindly minister patterned his life for a useful career in the ministry. Later he studied at Yale University Divinity School.

During 45 years of active ministry, Dr. Powell served but three charges—a short time at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Philadelphia, then 15 years at Immanuel Church in New Haven, Conn., and 29 years at Abyssinian Church in New York.

When Dr. Powell took charge of Abyssinian Church, although that church was then 100 years old, it had a debt of $146,354. When he retired the church had a plant worth a half a million dollars, was free of all debt, it owned and operated a home for aged members of the congregation, and had pioneered a community work among young people as well as increasing the regular membership to over 8,000—the largest single Protestant congregation in America.

Dr. Powell also found time to travel and lecture in many parts of this country, in Europe and the Holy Land. Through his example, many Baptist churches improved their method of administration, and many young ministers got their start through his kindly guidance and assistance.

His has been a full life and a happy life as is evidenced by the closing paragraph in which the author says:

"If I had the privilege of selecting a career, I would select again the Jesus Way of living and the Jesus Way of working. I would like to be pastor again at Ebenezer Church in Phialdelphia, the Immanuel Church in New Haven and the Abyssinian Church in New York."

Richard R. Smith, 120 East 39th street, is publisher of "Against the Tide" which sells for $2.

"Occupational Opportunities Monographs"
by John Patrick Corcoran, M...
The Xavier University Press
Washington Ave., and Pine Street
New Orleans, La.

(Occupational Opportunities Monographs
65¢ per copy, the entire set of twenty-
five (25)---$11.75--Introductory prices.

See-- Labor, occupation, wages , etc.(Folder)

South's View point Shown

CROSS CURRENTS, by Kate Mayhew Speake. Penney, Bruce Humphries, Inc. $2.00.

This book was written by a woman who is unusual in many respects, and from the Southerner's standpoint, it is one of the best books that has been written about the War Between the States, in that it attempts to give both sides of the dispute. It is a historic novel which is also filled with many actual facts.

The author is as well qualified for her work in writing this book as any person could have been. Her father was one of four brothers who fought in the war, and her mother was from Ohio.

The story concerns a young Southerner who married a young school teacher from Ohio. He takes her to his Southern home where there are no sympathizers with her beliefs. The events that follow reveal both the Northern and Southern side of the controversy.

Another outstanding thing about CROSS CURRENTS which will be appreciated by Southerners is the fact that the writer, having been reared in the South, does a good job of writing negro dialect. Lack of this ability has completely ruined many books for those who cannot become accustomed to writers who attempt unsuccessfully to write in Southern or negro dialect.

The romance, naturally, is fiction, but the history will be found to be accurate. The book reveals conditions in Washington prior to Lincoln's inaugural, the apprehension before the outbreak of the war, a Federal sympathizer surrounded by a family of rebels, the sufferings of a defeated people and the ultimate outcome of the principals involved.

In order to keep the story from dealing with tragedy in its entirety, Mrs. Penney included several amusing incidents. The incident wherein a negro servant swore at a balky mule with every profane word he could think of while all the white people sat with fingers stuffed in their ears, is enough to provoke real laughter.

A highly interesting book.—W. R. E.

MISS ZORA NEALE HURSTON
Author of the new book, "Tell My Horse," published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., which has been widely praised by critics. The book is the story of folk life in Haiti and Jamaica, personally observed as no white person ever saw it. Carl Carmer, author of "Stars Fell on Alabama," says: "Her book is full of keen social comment relieved with constant humor, is packed with good stories, accounts of folk religions, songs with both music and words."

The Negro, Too, In American History

By Merl R. Eppse, M. A., 530-22 pp. Nashville, Tenn. National Educational Publishing Company, Inc $3.00. Reviewed by A. P. Foster, Recording Secretary, Tennessee Historical Society.

In the multiplicity of books that, for some years, have been coming in endless streams from the presses of American publishers, seemingly every possible subject has been covered, and covered deeply, widely, thickly, lengthily, exhaustively and scholarly. Some subjects have been discussed ably in many books. Such is the case with books about the Negro. In fact, so many have been written about him that the question arises, "Is it possible to write another book along this line of inquiry and development and produce something new?" "The Negro, Too, In American History" is the affirmative answer to this question, and even a casual scrutiny, a dalliant ruffling of its pages, with a more deliberate reading of a paragraph here and there, furish irrefutable evidence that here is something new (at least, new to more readers); that, in this book, is portrayed, for the first time, the amazing history of the Negro race through four hundred years of slavery, followed by seventy-five years of constantly advancing progress and accomplishment.

Within the circumscribed limits of its five hundred thirty pages, the able author, Professor Merl R. Eppse, of the faculty of the Tennessee A. & I. State College, has told his story simply, tolerantly, wisely, without controversy of ill-feeling on any point, and with a style of composition that is most pleasing.

These characteristics of Professor Eppse can be readily discerned by the reading of even a single paragraph from his preface, in which he says:

Negroes came to America with Columbus, and the records show that they accompanied virtually all of the discoveries and explorers. They were here when the Indians taught the early settlers tobacco cultivation; they helped to hew the wood out of which the pioneer cabins were built; and they cleared and tilled the soil for the pioneers in order that they might have more time to think and plan.

They protected the homes of the pioneers, and by so doing, a great faith and loyalty developed between the two races. Walking by the side of the white man in his adventures, helping him to make a living, fighting in wars with him—all this devotion has caused the present generation to look back over such relationship and to discover the good as well as the evil that came out of it. People of this day do not see a picture in mind of one being black and menial, while the other is white and powerful—but they see two persons of different color, sharing, planning, working and fighting together—out of which has emerged a great democracy that we call America."

As an appropriate setting for his narration, the author devotes his first chapter to an informative discussion of the original inhabitants of Africa, the aboriginal Negroes. Most interestingly he tells of the geography, topographq, natural resources, flora and fauna, of this fascinating and fecund continent; of the different tribes and their characteristics.

This leads to an account of explorations and discoveries made by Europeans, whereby this primitive people became known and the extent of the world was disclosed by such investigators as Marco Polo, who placed Europe in touch with China and whose recounts marked the greatest advance in geagraphical knowledge made in more than a thousand years; such as Vasco Da Gama who circumnavigated Africa and reached India from the west while Christopher Columbus was striving to reach the same goal by sailing in the opposite direction.

The author tells of the numerous voyages and expeditions made by discoverers in the western world, in many of which centures they were accomplished by Negroes. But the greatest advance in geographical the Negro of Africa was found to be the most profitable slave in the world. From the very moment when the white people ascertained his subservience, his patience and his fidelity, the slave trade became more and more increasingly profitable and the Negro took his place in American economy.

The expansion of the slave trade, the increase in the numbers of Negroes in this country, the discovery that they were profitfiable in the South, but not in the North, the slave life during the period of colonization, the status of the Negro in the several colonies, the part played by the Negro in the Revolutionary period, how the Negro figured (or was figured) in the compromises of the Constitution, the Negro in religion, folklore, music and war, the development of the abolition movement and the consequent friction between the sections, the Mason and Dixon Line, the Dred Scott Decision and the Underground Railroad, the opinions of eminent men regarding slavery, the Negro in the Civil War, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the amazing progress of the Negro in the last seventy-five years, as shown by government statistics and otherwise—all these and many more subjects have been detailed most charmingly by the talented author.

Under the head of "Negro Office-Holders," Professor Eppse makes a sane quotation from a speech by Beverly Nash, an ex-slave and member of the constitutional convention of South Carolina, shortly after the war. Nash said:

"I believe, my friends, and fellow citizens, we are not prepared for the suffrage. But we can learn. Give a man tools, and let him commence to use them, and, in time, he will learn a trade. So it is with voting. We may not understand it at the start, but in time, we shall learn to do our voting. We recognize the Southern white man as the true friend of the black man. You see upon the banner, 'United we stand, divided we fall' and if you could see the scroll of that society that banner represente, you would see the white man and the black man standing with their arms locked together, as the type of friendship and the Union we desire. It is not our desire to be a discordant element in the community, or to unite the poor with the rich, the white man has the land, the black man has the labor, and labor is worth nothing without capital. We must help create capital by restoring confidence, and we can only secure confidence by selecting proper men to fill our public offices."

After showing by documentary evidence the remarkable progress made by the Negro race in recent years, the contributions that the Negroes have made, along with the white man, in the development and culture of America, the author show his broadmindedness and sound sense in regard to the future by assuring the Negro that his advancement, like that of the whites is dependent upon his own efforts. He says:

The future of the Negro does not look any brighter than that of the whites. If the truth were known, he is worse off economically than he was a few years ago. The time has arrived when he will have to acquire economical skill and compete with all other laborers. There are no more traditional Negro jobs. He will have to shift for himself."

All in all, The Negro, Too In American History, is a remarkable book by a remarkable educator.

First Edition Race Novels Now On Sale

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—Three new books on Race children have been released by leading publishers and are widely advertised, for young people.

The first is "Shuttered Windows," by Florence Crannell Means, a 206 page story of a 16 year old Race school girl who was born in the North but went South to live, published by Houghton Mifflin company of Boston.

The heroine, Harriet Freeman whose life in Minneapolis had spared her many prejudices and discriminations, undergoes a series of painful shocks and disillusionments when she begins life anew with her grandmother on a sea island off the coast of South Carolina. The book is designed to bring a sympathetic view to white girls of an educated Race girl's problem of racial adjustment.

Life at Mt. Vernon in the days of George Washington is vividly portrayed in "A Shipment for Susannah," who was Nellie Custis maid. Susannah was present when General Lafayette visited General Washington, and saw the great Frenchman help plaster the mansion ballroom walls. The book, by Eleanor Weakley Noeln, is published by Lothrop, Lee and Sheppard company of Boston.

"Junior, a Colored Boy of Charleston," by Eleanor Frances Lattimore, published by Harcourt, Brace and Company of New York, is the story of a lad that is "simple, appealing, and full of atmosphere and charm of old Charleston."

Author

Miss ZORA NEALE HURSTON author of the new book, "Tell My Horse," published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa. which has been widely praised by critics. The book is the story of folk life in Haiti and Jamaica, personally observed as no white person ever saw it. Carl Carmer, author of "Stars Fell on Alabama," says: "Her book is full of keen social comment relieved with constant humor, is packed with good stories, accounts of folk religion, songs with both music and words."

(Calvin Service)

Negro Graduates

THE NEGRO COLLEGE GRADUATE. By Charles S. Johnson. 399 pp. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. $3.

By WILLIAM SHANDS MEACHAM

IT is a refreshing privilege for a reviewer to be able to close a book and say that the author is an outstanding exemplar of his thesis. As director of the Department of Social Science at Fisk University, Charles S. Johnson has not only served as one of the most important interpreters of race relations, but has successfully bridged the cultural gap that too often separates the work of the Negro social scientist from that of his scientific colleagues of the majority. He was co-author of "The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy" with Edwin R. Embree and W. W. Alexander, and his books have supplied the whole South with valuable sources of reference on the nature of its social problems.

Mr. Johnson's success thus illustrates precisely the method through which we will tend to solve the perplexities of racial relations in the United States by availing ourselves of the social understanding of the cultured Negro, both in working on specific problems and in removing general barriers in the way of interracial cooperation and progress. In "The Negro College Graduate," this researcher who has studied Negro problems as the member of a Presidential commission, and has served on a committee of the League of Nations, offers the factual basis for a better understanding of the scope of opportunity of those who are to carry back to the masses or his race "the fruits of their wider experience, the knowledge of a wider world, the techniques of cooperative living and enterprise. * * *"

When the Negro college graduate leaves the halls of the college or the university that has granted him a degree, he is involved by deep-lying conflicts that do not confront the white college graduate. Education has introduced him into the democratic American world and its ideals; in the actual world in which he finds himself he is "more or less completely isolated from the sources of the intellectual and cultural life of the majority."

Yet the record of the American Negro college graduate presents a solid and inspiring achievement. From 1826 to 1936, a period of 110 years, there were 43,821 Negro graduates of colleges and professional schools in America. There was a decided acceleration of the number of graduates after 1885. In the series of years from 1914 to 1936 the increase in the number of Negro graduates from Northern schools was 393 per cent, and 1,083 per cent for Negro schools. During this period 26,283 academic degrees were conferred on Negroes. This study gives the distribution and occupation of all living Negro college graduates, and a great deal of social data on 5,512 of these who were directly interviewed by Mr. Johnson, or reached by questionnaires.

The first two years after the Negro college graduate leaves school he earns little more than the annual costs of his schooling, but in the next five years his income increases 67 per cent, and it continues to increase until it reaches a median annual income of $2,488 for graduates with from eighteen to twenty-two years' experience. Of this group, 53 per cent are property owners with median holdings valued at $5,423. Eighty per cent of the Negro college graduates who have been out of school forty years are property owners. Six per cent of the graduates ultimately get in the annual income brackets above $5,000, and a few earn over $10,000; 15 per cent own property valued at more than $10,000.

Mr. Johnson briefly reviews the contributions Negro college graduates have made to science and literature.

Bibliography - 1938

Man from Georgia

THESE BARS OF FLESH—T. S. Stribling—*Doubleday, Doran* ($2.50).

Andrew Barnett was a portly, ruddy-faced, middle-aged Georgia politician. When he was in the legislature he fathered a bill requiring all county superintendents of schools to have college degrees. But when he voted for a measure compelling farmers to put up fences the opposition gave him such a hiding it was a wonder he was elected school superintendent afterwards. People voted for him for the same reason that women were kind to him—because he was big, good-natured, couldn't quite take care of himself. But as school superintendent Andy had to have a college degree. Leaving Matilda and the kids in Georgia, he registered in Megapolis University's summer school, where he made a small sensation by giving homely accounts of his troubles to strangers, discoursing amiably on the superstitions of Negroes and the laws of practical politics, keeping his appreciative eyes open for the beauties of Northern womanhood.

Andy was no mental giant. In fact, the opposition papers in his native Atlee County called him Simp Barnett. Since he bought newspapers only when the newsboys shouted something that interested him, his knowledge of current events was sketchy. But with his unhurried way of talking, his patient attempts to find out if acquaintances had any kinspeople in Atlee County, he made friends, soon found himself written up as an expert on folklore. Before he knew it he was an unpaid ghost writer for the high-pressure, racketeering Dr. Fyke, who wrote books on sex and income, on how to make people notice you, and who conducted experiments in telepathy with a pretty, unmoral girl named Marie Redeau. Andy could not do Dr. Fyke's work, but when he persuaded a rival professor to do it his feat so tickled the dean that he was given a class of his own—in practical politics, where he talked about his own campaigns. Andy was very well pleased with the way things were going, especially his love affairs, when he ran into trouble. One day he told a nice-mannered young reporter that university professors were communists, found himself plastered on front pages all over the country, and out of a job.

Until this point in *These Bars of Flesh* readers are likely to enjoy Thomas Sigismund Stribling's 13th novel as a satire on Southerners and educators, and to enjoy it most when it approaches farce. But Author Stribling sets his stage for comedy only to get moodily mystical, rings in some queer high jinks involving a stolen television device, Russian spies, long-winded philosophers and spiritualistic seances, until the line between what he is satirizing and what he is taking seriously becomes blurred. When the medium goes into her last trance, and even Simp begins to talk about the triumph of spirit over matter, readers are left wondering whether Author Stribling is kidding them, Simp, or himself.

Book Reviews

TOMMY LEE FEATHERS, by Ed Bell. Farrar and Rinehart Inc., New York. 308 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by MARJORIE POTTS

Ed Bell, in his story of life in the Negro section of Marrowbone, Tenn., has realistically presented that element of America which is yet romantic and uncivilized.

Sister Feathers, a mountain of shiny black flesh, is the much-admired preacher for the colored element. Sis comprises a violent temper, a beaming smile, a booming voice, a deep maternal affection, and a sincere religion. She loves her son, Tommy Lee, with that engulfing love shown only by a widow with one child. Mrs. Bell has shown her love in this striking sentence from her own lips: "I has this shotgun in my hand an' it pointin' straight. I be dee-lighted to blow yo' guts out in the yard. Now if you so brave jus'—"

Sis Feathers is not defending her son with the gun, but talking to him. She is keeping her son locked in his room to keep him from a football game where his life will be in danger. It is later discovered that the gun was not loaded.

Tommy Lee, being the Negro football hero, and every inch male, resents his mother's too-close watchfulness after his soul and his health.

This is Mr. Bell's second novel and the high acclaim which the critics gave FISH ON THE STEEPLE has caused this one to be anticipated with interest.

As a story of naked reality, it cannot be surpassed, but sometimes the author overshadows the rare humor and artistic simplicity of his style by a description absolutely indecent and unnecessary. Aside from shocking the senses of discriminating people, and spoiling the artistic effect of the book, such passages will tend to lower the reader's opinion of the Negro, unless he is aware that the book deals with the life of entirely uneducated Negroes. These characters have had small chance to develop a sense of decency, but they possess an irresistible native charm, a simple faith, and sincere emotions.

The spontaneous conversation, natural dialect, and clear characterizations outweigh any loathsome passages. Mr. Bell has shown the power to make his every scene vivid and moving by his colorful pictures, the boom of Negro voices and the smell of sweat-covered bodies, which penetrate the senses.

The novel contains delightful humor, dire tragedy, sordid immorality, all worked into an artistic picture of normal life in a Negro community.

Tommy Lee and Sis Feathers are true representatives of a vigorous, savage race.

Today's -- BOOK --

THE HANDSOME ROAD, by Gwen Bristow. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York. 384 pp. $2.50.

Reviewed by VERA CARDWELL GEOGHEGAN

"Nigger pick de cotton, Nigger tote de load,
Nigger build de levee for de ribber to smash
Nigger nebber walk up de handsome road,
But I radder be a Nigger dan po' white trash."

This old plantation song on the title page of Miss Bristow's new novel, gives an illuminating resume of the contents. Having read DEEP SUMMER, her first delightful book, I was quite pleased to receive this one. DEEP SUMMER was a story of Louisiana in the Revolution, while this volume might be termed a sequel as one meets again the aristocratic Sheramy and Larne families, descendants of the pioneers who established a dynasty in the Louisiana jungle.

Mainly the story concerns two women, closely associated, despite the vastly wide division of class distinction. Corrie May Upjohn, at fifteen is disgusted with the sordid environment of her home on the river wharf. She tells Budge Foster: "I'm gonta be somebody. And have me some clothes to wear and have folks speak to me on the street." So she applies for a position as maid to Mrs. Denis Larne, the lovely young mistress of Ardeith plantation. Ann Larne, through pity, employs her. To Corrie May, Ardeith is a veritable paradise with its lush gardens of mimosa, hibiscus, roses and gardenias. She is awed too by the thirty-room house with its Doric columns, its silver door knobs, the cut-glass fanlight and the crowning glory of a spiral self-supporting staircase. Though outwardly respectful, she soon bitterly resents the unconsciously disdainful attitude of these aristocrats and their effortless charm. She resents too, the half veiled contempt of the privileged Negro slaves.

Miss Bristow writes with great understanding of the turbulent days of the sixties. While Miss Bristow's novel may lack some of that indefinable emotional power found in Margaret Mitchell's book nevertheless THE HANDSOME ROAD is unusually readable and dramatic. The straightforward and colorful style in which it is sharply penned, is no doubt due to the eight years of the author's reportorial career on the New Orleans Times Picayune.

Most graphically presented, as a typical attitude of the sixties, is the behavior of Ann Larne and her luxurious friends. To them a realization of the war was difficult. And not until after much sorrow does Ann's strength of character assert itself.

Also vividly typical of the reconstruction days is the splendid characterization of Gilday, the ruthless Northern carpetbagger. For a short period, Corrie May housed in a lovely old home, which she has done over in a vulgar flamboyant style, lives with Gilday. She even has the satisfaction of seeing Ann Larne, reduced to dire poverty from unjust carpetbag taxation, dependent on her for a ten-dollar loan.

However it is through her son that she feels her feet are finally turned toward "the handsome road." For Fred, at fourteen, has a fairly good education and is working on the levee in his spare time. He is ambitious and is soon promoted. And so one day it comes to Corrie May "in a flash of glory" that although Fred has no traditions of birth (as Ann Larne's elegant young son Denis) he does have the strength of which fresh traditions are made.

(THE HANDSOME ROAD is published today.)

Negro Life.

KEY CORNER. By Eva Knox Evans. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 206 pp. $2.

Though "Key Corner" is classed as a juvenile book it will delight adult readers who are interested in negro customs and conditions.

Located in Georgia "Key Corner" cleverly contrasts the modern negro life with that of "slave time" as disclosed in Asa's reminiscences. The action centers around the school that has long been subdued with traditional methods, then suddenly becomes alive and happy with progressive learning under the guidance of Miss Walsh. Typical of the present-day negro youth is Johnnie with his dignified, unostentatious understanding of accessible advancement and his quiet determination to attain his goal.

Eva Knox Evans writes from her experiences in a negro country community. "Key Corner" is written in the same delightful, charming style as "Araminta" and "Jerome Anthony.'

RUTH M. GREEN.

NICODEMUS AND HIS NEW SHOES, by Inez Rogan. E. P. Dutton & Company, New York. $1.

Reviewed by EVELYN BYRD

Here is Nicodemus again—and this time with new shoes. But when he proudly shows them to his girl friend, Petunia, she turns up her nose and scoffs, "All God's chillun got shoes."

"Yes," says Nicodemus, "but all God's chillun ain't got NEW shoes."

So absorbed did Nicodemus become in trying to impress Petunia that he forgot all about his little sister whom his Mammy had told him to mind. They found her down at the creek, but although they coaxed and coaxed, little sister didn't want to stop playing in the mud.

How she almost succeeded in ruining Nicodemus' new shoes and the ones that Petunia confiscated from her mother (not to be outdone) is as delightful and as intrancingly illustrated a story as Inez Hogan has ever written about these two perennial favorites.

US-ALL, a story of the South, by Sam Mims. The Caxton Printers Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho. 292 pp $2.50.

Telegraph
5-1-38

Reviewed by JANET ROSS JOHNSTON

Plantation life in northern Louisiana is the background for this story. Deerlick Plantation is the home of Willie Mott, an orphaned Negro boy, whom "Bossman" alows him to live in a little shed room at the "Big House".

The pranks of Willie Mott and "Bossman's" son, Ned, will amuse and interest the boys who read this book. These two are companions in mischief, adventure, work and finally in practical education at the hands of Jefferson Foster. Jeff Foster is a young Negro of whom "Bossman" is very proud. He has just returned from Tuskeegee where his expenses were paid by "Bossman", and who is greatly pleased by the results of this experiment in Negro education.

Through the eyes of Willie Mott the reader sees Jeff return from college a sane, over-all clad man, with a genius for mechanical work, grafting, electricity, etc., all of which make him an enigma to his colored friends. They cannot understand his lack of showy clothes, or his new-found ability. They become antagonistic toward Jeff, and through all this, young Willie Mott vacillates between the desire to become "eddicated" and the wish to be just one of the happy Negroes.

"Bossman" calls Willie Mott and his two boon companions "The Three Musty Steers." He promises them a trip to the circus on the "'Skursion train" if they finish chopping out the gin house cut of cotton. After a particularly gruelling week spent in this way, "The Three Musty Steers" start out by a short cut to board the "'Skursion Train" in great glee, only to find "Bossman's" prize bull calf stuck in the bog. With groaning reluctance they miss the train and spend the afternoon releasing the calf. "Bossman" rewards them with a $10 bill and a trip clear to Shreveport next day to see the circus. And so "The Tree Musty Steers" learn the practical value of right doing, as they learn other moral lessons throughout the book.

COUNTRY LIFE STORIES, by Elizabeth Perry Cannon, M.A. and Helen Adele Whiting, M.A. E. P. Dutton and Company, New York. 95 pp.

Telegraph
7-17-38

Reviewed by HAZEL GIWINNER

Helen Adele Whiting, state supervisor of colored elementary schools, Georgia, and Elizabeth Perry Cannon, instructor, Department of Education, Spelman College and Atlanta University member, Julius Rosenwald Rural council, have written a collection of stories intended as a social studies reader for colored pupils in the elementary grades in small rural schools. There are nine stories included in the book and 14 illustrations of colored people engaged in social activities of the present time. The illustrations, in softly graded pastel tints, are by Vernon Winslow, B.F.A.: Art instructor, Tennessee State College.

The stories are written about such activities as digging wells, trading eggs for meat, buying from the rolling store, getting letters from relatives in Ohio, paying the insurance man, and plowing when the weather is good, and other everyday happenings in the lives of colored children in rural communities today. They are told in a manner simple and interesting enough to be read by children who have had two years of reading experience. To quote from the foreword written by the co-authors of Country Life Stories, "It was felt that the principle of curriculum building based on the interests and experiences of the pupils was sufficient to justify the vocabulary used in this book." And when the vocabulary seems beyond the grade age of the subject matter, as it occasionally does, the authors explain, "The over-age and retarded pupils so often found in rural areas is another justification for the use of certain words."

The story, The Well Digger, is told to a little boy, Luke, by his grandfather who has just finished digging a well. It is so interestingly told, and packed with so much real information on a subject of vital community importance, water supply, that adults find it hard to put the book down until the last word has been read. Of especial interest is the account of how the well-digger uses a trick with a branch from a hickory tree to tell where water is under the ground.

"SOJOURNER TRUTH"

Chapel Hill, N. C.—(C)—A new book, "Sojourner Truth, God's Faithful Pilgrim," by Arthur Huff Fauset has just been published by the University of North Carolina Press, W. T. Couch, director. Mr. Fauset, a Philadelphia teacher, is author of "Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee and Freedom," and "Folklore from Nova Scotia." Mr. Fauset is the second colored author whose work has been published by the U. of N. C. Pres. Dr. Benjamin G. Brawley was the first.

EZEKIEL'S TRAVELS. By Elvira Garner, illustrated by the author. Holt. $1.50.

Done in the dialect of the deep South Negro, with illustrations in the line, about Ezekiel, a little, little boy, "he sister Emancipation and he brudder Jubilural." Ezekiel, a right busy little boy, gets around quite some places in the attractive little book.

JUDY AND GRITS AND HONEY. By Rhea Wells. Illustrated by the author. Doubleday, Doran. 50c.

A gay little piece about a small girl, an appealing little negro boy and a pony. Simple tale that had the four-year-old calmed and absorbed and rather pleased at the end.

"The Colored Situation" Is A Good Seller

Faye P. Everett's 328 Pages of Much Use Says ANP Critic

(By Frank Marshall Davis for ANP)—Two years ago. Faye P Everett, a St. Louis school teacher, produced a volume entitled "The Colored Situation," which caused me to comment that although the book was fundamentally valuable, it possessed several glaring faults, among them the inclusion of articles on the changing Aframerican scene that had become outmoded before publication.

Published By Meador Co.

Two or three weeks ago, the revised edition of "The Colored Situation" was released by the Meador Publishing company of Boston. In this 328 page volume, selling for $2, most of the faulty material has been deleted, articles brought up to date, and a section added on Recent Observations. The new book is an hundred percent improvenment over the old.

Mr. Everett's purpose in compiling this important book was to present for the student in particular a picture of vocational opportunities existing for the young Negro today in America. He is both interested and qualified for this work, because in addition to teaching, he maintains a Bureau of Guidance for Negro Youth at 4260 West Belle place, St. Louis. The Colored Situation may be used as a text book for the high school or college, as a source book for social workers and as a fountain of interesting information for the general reader.

Is Informative

Although Mr. Everett edited the volume and wrote much of the material, he has been assisted by some of the race's foremost specialists in their fields. Those who have contributed factual and informative articles include such educators as Dr. George Haynes of the Federal Council of Churches, B. F. Hubert of Georgia State Industrial college and W. R. Banks of Prairie View; Newspapermen such as J. E. Mitchell, Romeo L. Dougherty, George J. Fleming and Roscoe Dunjee; business leaders such as James A. "Billboard" Jackson, Albon L. Holsey, Harry H. Pace, and Elisha Scott; labor leaders as A. Phillip Randolph and Reinzi B. Lemus; technicians Charles S. Duke, J. C. Evans, C. B. Hutchinson and J. A Parsons, and health leaders such as Dr. Algernon B. Jackson and Dr. John A. Kenney.

In addition to special articles by and biographies of these men, Mr. Everett points out the social heritages and sociological tendencies which have had an effect upon the race's vocational opportunities, and he also deals with the civic life of Aframericans. Naturally, all of the conclusions of this brilliant 36-year-old educator will not meet with unanimous approval, but they in no way detract from the worth of the volume.

The Colored Situation should prove a valuable addition to the library of every school in America, and deserves to be widely read by all those people interested in the employment and economic possibilities of Negroes.

LITTLE BLACK BOBTAIL. By Helen Bannerman. Illustrated by the author. Stokes. 75c.

Similar to Little Black Sambo,

by the same author, this book deals with the strong doings of three colored children. It has a series of somewhat unusual incidents, but, of course, ends happily.

Bibliography - 1938

The Role of the Black Mammy.

THIS MORNING

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II.

"In their honest and painless han
Our early days were passed."

"The Role of the Black Mammy in the Plantation Household" is the title of a reprint that comes from the July issue of the Journal of Negro History. Its author is Jessie W. Pankhurst, of Tuskegee Institute, and we welcome it as one more indication of the southern negro's fine growing interest in and study of his own history. The picture it paints coincides with and supplements one that lives and is loved in the memory of many of us today. It closes with Lucian Lamar Knight's "Nor can it be said that her influence was unfelt in the councils of the government when she held the hand of him who wrote the Declaration of Independence and rocked 'the forest-born Demosthenes' who kindled the fires of the Revolution."

A NEGRO WRITES OF "BLACK MAMMIES"

"The role of the Black Mammy in the Plantation Household," by Jessie W. Parkhurst, research assistant in the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research, is at once the most succinct, the most comprehensive and the best documented study yet made of the subject. It is, moreover, the first study of the subject yet made by a Negro scholar.

Strangely enough, however, the cultivated, educated Negro seems to resent the place of honor and glory occupied by the "Black Mammy." The Parkhurst thesis, for all its smmpathetic treatment of the subject, betrays this unaccountable hostility to the affectionate regard which the well-placed white Southerner feels for the "Mammy" of great memory. It is a curious emotional lapse in the urbane, sophisticated Negro.

Thus we read in the first page of this otherwise moving historical document:

Negroes and whites in the South held different attitudes toward what came out of slavery. To the majority of Negroes anything that savored of the period of slavery was objectionable. Even the spirituals once came under the ban. To whites the period of slavery has been sentimentalized and glorified. Because the "Black Mammy" originated in and came out of the period of bondage she is an acceptable symbol to whites and an unacceptable one to Negroes.

Never was this made more evident than it was by the controversy which was kept up for many months through the press by the suggestion made in 1923 by the Daughters of the Confederacy that Congress set aside in the National Capital a site upon which they would erect a monument to the memory of this group of Negro women. The manument proposal was generally opposed by Negroes, who said a better memorial would be to extend the full rights of American citizenship to the descendants of these Mammies. The proposals made by the Negroes included the discontinuation of lynching, the inequality in educational facilities, all practices of discrimination, the humiliation of Negroes in public conveyances, and the denial of the rights of suffrage.

What has all this to do with the historic character known as the "Black Mammy?" After all, she was a fact, not a poem, and should be treated in literature as a fact and not as a poem. It so happens that in the booklet under notice upon the whole, she is treated for what she is, and not as an exhibit as a slumsy piece of propaganda for a race or a minority.

What follows the introduction is a thorighoging piece of historical writing. What was the character of the "Mammy?" What was her social and economic status? What was her rank? What were her routine duties? What her position in the white family that owned her? What was the scope of her authority? What the length of her working hours? All of these questions are answered in the grand manner and sympathetically. At the end one feels that the Negro historian is quite as sentimental about the beautiful character known as the "Black Mammy" as any White novelist or orator has yet shown himself to be. Why should any proud Negro of today apologize for a racial specimen that evoked the glad praise of both white and black people in the days of her glory? The tradition of the "Black Mammy" is the common inheritance of two societies.

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JULY 25, 1938 J28

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Woman Writes On 'Black Mammy' Of Plantation Period

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE—(AN P)—An interesting article appearing in the July issue, Journal of Negro History, is "The Role of the Black Mammy in the Plantation Household," written by Miss Jessie W. Parkhurst, research assistant, Tuskegee Institute department of research and record.

Miss Parkhurst is the first colored person to make a study of the Black Mammy of the southern plantation. Miss Parkhurst's studies of the subject present free from mawkish sentiment or partisan resentment. The subheads are: The "Black Mammy's" position in the Household;" "Relations Between the "Black Mammy and the Children" and "Relations Between the Mammy and the Mistress."

Recognizing that the term "Black Mammy" is a red flag to the bull as far as American Negroes are concerned, Miss Parkhurst in her introduction makes this clarifying statement that hakes it evident her study is no wise controversial:

"Negroes and whites in the South held different attitudes toward what came out of slavery. To the majority of Negroes anything that savored of the period of slavery was objectionable. Even the spirituals once came under the ban. To white the period of slavery has been sentimentalized and glorified. Because the "Black Mammy" originated in and came out of the period of bondage she is an acceptable symbol to whites and an unacceptable one to Negroes."

WOMAN WRITES ARTICLE ON BLACK MAMMY

By B. B. WALCOTT for ANP

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